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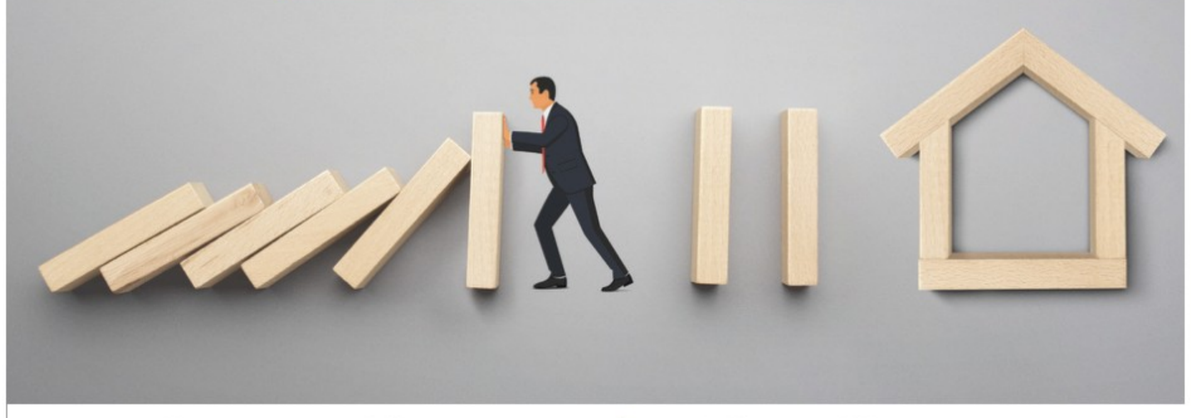

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PARLEY

Is seat-sharing enough to unite the Opposition?

State-level rivalries will pose a challenge

OPINION » PAGE 11

SPINNERS DELIVER

Kuldeep, Jadeja set up India's win in first ODI

SPORT » PAGE 17

NEARBY

At 435, tiger numbers rise in State

MYSURU
The tiger count in Karnataka has seen an increase. The State has a minimum of 435 tigers as per the All-India Tiger Estimation exercise conducted in 2022. A minimum of 404 tigers were estimated during the 2018 AITE exercise.

» Page 8

Spurt in cases of conjunctivitis

BENGALURU
There has been a spurt in the number of conjunctivitis cases over the last fortnight and some city hospitals are receiving nearly 30 cases a day.

» Page 4

METROPLUS » PAGE 7

SC extends Mishra's tenure as ED Director till Sept. 15

Top court goes back on its earlier judgment in 'public and national interest' after Centre's appeal in the wake of FATF evaluation; however, it will not accept any further requests for extension

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court, in a special hearing on Thursday, extended Enforcement Directorate (ED) Director Sanjay Kumar Mishra's tenure till September 15 to serve "public and national interest".

The court had declared Mr. Mishra's continuation as ED Director "invalid and illegal" in a judgment on July 11.

It had directed him to quit office by July 31.

However, just four days before the deadline, the Centre moved an urgent application in the Supreme Court, saying Mr. Mishra's presence in the saddle was crucial for the country to effectively sail through the ongoing evaluation by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). The government asked the court to allow Mr. Mishra, who is currently on his third extension and fifth year as ED chief, to continue till October 15. The country's international image was at stake, the Centre pleaded.

> Are you not giving a picture here that your entire department is full of incompetent people except for this one person... Is it not demoralising for the entire force that except for this one person, the entire department will collapse? **SUPREME COURT TO THE CENTRE**

Stressing that the court would not have entertained the government's request in "ordinary circumstances", especially after declaring Mr. Mishra's continuation as ED Director "illegal", the Special Bench headed by Justice B.R. Gavai allowed him to carry on at the ED's helm till mid-September.

The Bench, including Justices Vikram Nath and Sanjay Karol, made it clear that it would allow no further requests from the government for his extension. It said Mr. Mishra would cease to be ED Director from September 15-16 midnight.

The hearing began at 3.30 p.m. with a sharp question from Justice Gavai to the government, represented by Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta.

"Are you not giving a picture here that your entire department is full of incompetent people except for this one person... Is it not demoralising for the entire force that except for this one person, the entire department will collapse," Justice Gavai asked.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Present tense: A Kuki man stands guard in the Kangbai area of Churachandpur district of Manipur on Thursday. RITU RAJ KONWAR

CBI to probe Manipur sexual assault; 1 killed as violence continues

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been asked to take over the probe into the May 4 sexual violence incident in Thoubal district of Manipur, the Centre said in its affidavit in the Supreme Court on Thursday.

The government also informed in the affidavit that the trial should be held outside the State and completed within six months of filing the chargesheet.

A video of the incident, where three women were stripped and paraded, and one of them gang-raped, surfaced recently.

Meanwhile, violence continued in the State, as one person was killed in a gunfight between two groups in the Kangvai area of Churachandpur district.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

CLP meet: Attempt made to mollify MLAs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Congress Legislature Party meeting on Thursday, held days after a few discontented MLAs dashed off a letter about their grievances, ended with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah promising that he will hold meetings with them every month and also asking his Cabinet colleagues to listen to legislators' issues on priority.

On the other hand, he is also learnt to have chastised the legislators for writing letters and asked what had prevented them from raising the issues directly with him. The letter, written by senior MLAs had embarrassed the party and led to the Opposition dubbing it as a pointer to differences in the new government.

DETAILS ON » PAGE 9

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From anxiety to ecstasy — the Indian football teams ride a wave of emotions

Despite being ranked outside the qualification mark, the Sports Ministry has decided to fly out the squads for this year's edition which begins in September

ASIAN GAMES

Neeladri Bhattacharjee

Two weeks after its triumphant SAFF Championship campaign, Indian football received a rude jolt as a 'selection criteria' set by the Sports Ministry almost ruled out its participation at the Asian Games for the second time in a row.

Finally, on July 26, the Sports Ministry approved both the men's and women's Indian teams to compete at the Asian Games.

The 2023 edition will take place at Hangzhou, China, from Sept. 23 to Oct. 8. The football competition will feature under-23 players from participating nations, with a provision for three players above that age.

India won the gold medal at the Asian Games twice (1951 and 1962) and the bronze in 1970. But its performance in the continental event has declined since.

In its previous appearance at the Asian Games in 2014, it finished at the bottom of the group stage and 26th overall among the 29 countries. In 2023, though, Igor Stimac's side, the senior Indian national team, has had a positive start.

It has won three titles so far – the tri-nation series, the Intercontinental Cup and the SAFF Championship – and has returned to the top 100 (99) of the FIFA rankings after five years. However, its ranking in Asia has not been anywhere close to eight – the cut-off set by the Ministry for Team Sports for the Asian Games.

What are the selection criteria and how did India get approval?

The circular from the centre read: "For team events, only those that have achieved a ranking up to eighth among participating countries of the concerned tournaments in the last year should be considered for participation in the respective tournaments."

India ranks 18th in Asia in the latest FIFA men's rankings and 11th (in Asia) in the women's rankings.

The Ministry's circular, however, has a caveat.

"In events where rankings are not maintained or where sportspersons have not been able to improve their ranking on account of reasons like lack of exposure in international tournaments, appropriate criteria may be adopted by the National Sports Federation (NSF) in consultation with this Ministry," it states.

A few National Sports Federations (NSFs) have used this to select squads – through national trials or at the discretion of the apex sports body when team ranking is not available.

One of the most recent yet prominent examples is that of the Indian Lawn Bowls team selected for the 2022 Commonwealth Games. The Bowling Federation of India used its discretion, keeping in mind a set of policies, to nominate the team for the Birmingham event.

The women's fours team won India's first gold medal in the discipline, and the men's fours team won the silver medal.

Disciplines such as bridge, rowing, golf, skateboarding, equestrian, breakdancing, eSports, and shooting have named their squads after trials.

On the other hand, AITA (All India Tennis Association) and the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) have picked the teams on their own. For individual sports, the criteria has been relaxed by the IOA, making the top eight (in Asia) the threshold (instead of the top 6).

Swimming comes as a glaring exception here. India has won two bronze medals in the last 36 years at the Asian Games and returned empty-handed from the last edition of the Games. However, the Swimming Federation of India (SFI), considering the National Championships as selection trials, announced a 36-member aquatics squad for Hangzhou.

Mission Hangzhou: Chhetri & Co. will be a relieved lot after all the suspense and will be raring to go in the Asian Games. Manu Bhaker will look to hit the bull's eye. K. MURALI KUMAR, TWITTER & A.M. FARUQUI

The scope for exemptions

The Ministry also has provisions for special exemptions.

"In the opinion of the experts of specific sports disciplines and that of the Sports Authority of India, the participation of individuals and teams in relaxation of the above criteria is recommended with justifiable reasons. The same will be considered in the Ministry for appropriate decision," states the Ministry's circular, dated July 10.

One of the beneficiaries of this provision was the men's handball team at the last Asian Games. This time, too, with the team ranked 15th, it will look to seek a similar benefit.

"We have the go-ahead from the Asian Handball Federation. We have the squad ready. The last time the team went with a special exemption from the IOA. The federation is hoping for the same this time," Tejraj Singh, treasurer, Handball Association of India, told *Sportstar*.

"If that does not happen, the federation will look to sponsor the campaign at the Asian Games.

"The women's team (ranked sixth in Asia) is definitely going. The junior handball championships in Noida will conclude on July 24 after which the camp will begin in Ayodhya. The team will then fly to Japan for further training," he added. Under the same criteria, the Sports Ministry announced on July 26 that both the Indian football teams (men and women) have been cleared to participate in the Asian Games despite their ranking in Asia.

> In events where rankings are not maintained or where sportspersons have not been able to improve their ranking on account of reasons like lack of exposure in international tournaments, appropriate criteria may be adopted by the National Sports Federation (NSF) in consultation with this Ministry

Volleyball is another interesting case.

The Volleyball Federation of India (VFI) has been embroiled in infighting for some time now, and its recognition as an NSF has also not been renewed since December 2019. As a result, the Sports Ministry directed the IOA to form an ad-hoc committee to look after the affairs of the federations.

"The ministry has reconsidered the matter in the context of the long-standing impasse and the existing state of affairs that continues to affect the sport of volleyball in the country due to persistent factionalism in the VFI," the letter stated.

The ad-hoc committee comprised four members, two of whom were from the IOA: Rohit Rajpal, Executive Council Member as Chairman, and Alaknanda Ashok (Joint Secretary). Under this committee, the squads for the Asian Games were selected.

The last time India participated in beach volleyball at the Asian Games, it finished 17th out of 25 teams. But after the open trials this month, the beach volleyball squad was finalised in Chennai on July 15.

However, this time, both the men's and women's volleyball teams (both ranked outside the top eight in Asia - men 15, women 14) as well as the beach volleyball teams have been given the green signal for the Asiad.

In basketball, though the 3x3 teams for both men and women have been cleared, only the women's team of 5x5 has got the nod from the Sports Ministry.

India's expenses for the entire campaign at the Asian Games, which include kits, travel, and stay, are borne by the Government of India. This includes all squads approved by the Sports Ministry and the Sports Authority of India.

In case a sport misses out, a federation can sponsor the team's campaign with its funds.

There have been several instances in the past where a federation has paid from its resources to support an athlete abroad, like the Kudo International Federation paying for the 18-member contingent at the Kudo World Cup 2023. But travelling under the aegis of the Centre remains a priority over self-funding.

The women's softball team provided some hope ahead of the Games.

With a rank of 10th in Asia and well out of the threshold for qualification, it (along with Singapore) got its approval from Softball Asia as wild cards to participate in the Asian Games during its executive committee meeting on February 23.

However, its approval was also rejected on July 26.

With the Indian contingent aiming to surpass the medal tally of 70 in 2018, it will be interesting to see if the IOA allows more teams to fly out to Hangzhou.

THE GIST

- The decks were cleared on July 26 when the Sports Ministry approved the participation of both the men's and women's football teams
- The Indian men's footballers won the gold at the Asian Games twice (1951 and 1962) and the bronze in 1970
- Under coach Stimac, the Blue Tigers are on a high, winning three titles in recent times
- India's expenses for the entire campaign at the Asian Games, which include kits, travel, and stay, are borne by the Government of India. This includes all squads approved by the Sports Ministry and the Sports Authority of India

GAME TIME

Test yourself on some assorted trivia and questions across various sports and games

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1

Members of Hanuman Vyayam Prasarak Mandal from Amaravati took part in the 1936 Berlin Summer Olympics. In what capacity?

QUESTION 2

What two-word term connects Paavo Nurmi, Keijo Erik Rosberg, Hannes Kolehmainen and Mika Hakkinen?

QUESTION 3

Which awards were established in 1999 by founding patrons DaimlerChrysler and Richemont?

QUESTION 4

Apart from the Pataudis, which other father-son pair has captained the Indian national cricket team?

QUESTION 5

Name the sport like squash where the ball is propelled against the walls of a special court using gloved or bare hands.

QUESTION 6

When Mahesh Bhupathi became the first Indian to win a senior Grand Slam tennis title, who was his playing partner?

QUESTION 7

Name the four tournaments that make the Grand Slam in men's golf.

QUESTION 8

How many complete miles in a marathon?

QUESTION 9

Which sport is governed by the Marquess of Queensbury rules?

QUESTION 10

In 1894, St. Marks (West Gorton) rechristen itself as what?

QUESTION 11

What much-viewed annual event was first held on January 15, 1967 in Los Angeles?

The Answers

1. They 'demonstrated' Kabbadi at the Games, 2. 'Flying Dutchman', 3. Laureus World Sports Awards, 4. Lala and Mohinder Amarnath, 5. Fives, 6. Rika Hiraki, 7. The PGA Championship, the Augusta Masters, the U.S. Open, and the British Open, 8. 26, 9. Boxing, 10. Manchester City, 11. Super Bowl, 12. Donald Budge, complete a calendar Grand Slam.

Question 12: Identify and he was the first player to achieve what distinction? THE HINDU ARCHIVES

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, GOVINDRAJ Channappa S/o Channappa, 13, 1st Crs, 5th Mn Rd, Nanjambha Agrahara, Chamarajpet, Bluru-18 have changed my name to Govindaraj Channappa vide affidavit dated 27.07.23 before Notary S.Vijayakumar, Bluru

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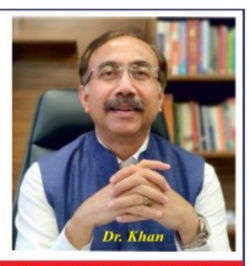

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I, NILEEMA Jain Residing at No. A-2, Krishna Residency, 11/3, Pattalamma Temple Street, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru -560004 do solemnly affirm that I was previously called Nileema, have changed my name to Nileema Jain Affidavit Dt. 21.7.2023 sworn before notary Mamatha N.K., Bengaluru-560070, Reg. No. 10201

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LEGAL NOTICE

Before the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal of Palakkad
O.P.M.V. 972/2022

Saji George and others - Petitioners
Vs
Moganne Gowda, S/o. Kalegowda, No.II, Kandalli Village & Post, Hassan Taluk, Hassan, Karnataka - 2nd Respondent

Please take notice that the above claim petition stands posted on 04.08.2023. If you fail to attend the court on the same date at 11 A.M. you will be set exparte.

Dated 24th day of July 2023,
Abhilash N., Advocate
Thenkurissi, Palakkad

LEGAL NOTICE

Before the Motor Accidents Claims Tribunal, Kozhikode, Kerala
OP (MV) 1427/2020

Jayaprakashan.P @ Jayan & Others : ***Petitioners***
And:
R1. V.Sengodan, S/o.Vaiyapuri Gounder, #7, RCC, 206-261, SG Mutt Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560018 : ***Respondent***

That the above case is Posted to 07.08.2023 for the appearance of Respondent No.1. otherwise he will be set exparte by the Hon'ble Court.

(Sd/-) **Babu P.Benedict**
Advocate for the petitioner

IN THE COURT OF THE XLI ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-61)
O.S NO. 6536/2022

BETWEEN
M/s ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at: Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara-390007 having its head office at and Zonal office at: 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru-560068 And also having branch at MG Road, Bengaluru, through its Authorised representative Mr. Rohith Ali M ...Plaintiff
And :
Mr. Bridget Suren, ...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

Defendant :
Mr. Bridget Suren
S/o. Shan Keegle,
Aged About 45 Years,
Residing #No 46, 2nd Floor, 4th Cross, CIL Layout, Narayana School
CN Halli, Bangalore-560032.

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs.5,33,686.39/-** along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the **LX Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (CCH-61)**, in person or by a pleader, on the day of **21.08.2023** at **11:00 AM** to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 20th day of July, 2023 at Bangalore.

By order of the Court,
Assistant Registrar,
Hon'ble City Civil Court,
Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners,
Advocates,
No. 701, Queens Corner 'A',
3, Queens Road,
Bengaluru- 01

INBRIEF

Graduation Day celebrated

The Soundarya Group of Institutions (SGI) recently celebrated its 14th Graduation Day.

According to a release from SGI, addressing the gathering, judge of High Court of Karnataka H.T. Narendra Prasad appealed to the graduates to embrace a value-driven approach from the beginning of their professional journey. He shared valuable insights on the importance of integrity, dignity, and ethics in building a fulfilling and prosperous career.

The Chief Executive Officer of Soundarya Group of Institutions, Keerthan Kumar, urged the graduating students not to lose heart when faced with challenges or setbacks, stressing that failures are not the end but the beginning of a new chapter in life. Soundarya P. Manjappa, Chairman of Soundarya Group of Institutions, encouraged the graduates to step into the world with confidence. As many as 485 students received the course completion certificates.

Sugama Sangeetha event

To mark the 80th birthday of Dr. H.S. Venkatesh Murthy, Karnataka Sugama Sangeetha Parishat in association with the Department of Kannada and Culture is organising a music programme titled 'Bhava Ranga Chitra Dhara' on August 2. Over 25 Sugama Sangeeta singers will render songs written by Dr. H.S.V. They include Kikkeri Krishnamurthy, Nagara Srinivasa Udupa, Archana Udupa, Sangeetha Katti, M.D. Pallavi, Nagachandrika Bhat, Mangala Ravi, and Suntha S. The event will see participation of many personalities.The programme will be held at Ravindra Kalakshetra from 4.30 p.m.

Shakti: Bus crew faces new challenges

BMTC employees point out issues such as staff crunch and how the onus of passengers travelling without ticket has completely fallen on conductors

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

On Monday evening, a young woman got on the bus and showed her scanned ID card on her phone for a free ticket. But her photo was not properly visible. I told her that I could not give her the zero ticket without seeing her photo on the ID card. She started arguing with me. Even the ladies around her told her that she should just buy a ticket, as the photo was not clear, but she did not budge for a long time," said a Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) conductor.

From repeatedly asking women passengers to show their ID cards to tearing more tickets than before, and to simultaneously dealing with the new norms of the government, teething troubles are taking a toll on crew members of the BMTC. K. MURALI KUMAR

She has been working in BMTC for 22 years. The implementation of Shakti scheme has brought with it new challenges: "Everyone shows their ID cards on their phones. If we ask for photocopies, they ask us why we cannot accept soft copies. In a crowded bus, who will be responsible if their phone slips out of my hand? Moreover, it is difficult to read every person's address and check their photos on phones, as we have to zoom in to see it clearly, which is time-consuming."

Her colleagues spoke of other challenges, such as repeatedly asking women passengers to show their ID cards and tearing more tickets than before.

A BMTC conductor said, "Earlier, it used to be easier as at least 30% of women used to have passes. Now, we have to issue tickets to all of them, including school and college students, who had always been pass-holders. Earlier, we used to issue 40-50 tickets to women. Now, the number has gone up to 80-90 tickets."

BMTC employees also pointed out issues such as staff crunch, lack of buses to handle the growing number of passengers, and how the onus of passengers travelling without tickets has completely fallen on the conductors.

"Some women sit in buses without buying tickets. When the crowd is dense, conductors cannot keep an eye on every passenger. However, we received a circular that if a passenger travels without a ticket, they do not have to pay any penalty, but the conductor should bear the full responsibility," said Chandrashekhar, leader of Karnataka State Road Transport Employees' League. "While we welcome the scheme, these minor problems should be addressed by the Transport Department," he added.

Viral video

In a video which went on social media recently, a woman was seen arguing with a bus conductor for asking for her Aadhaar card or voter's ID card as address proofs to issue a Shakti ticket.

The woman claimed that she was a central government employee and showed her official ID card questioning why it would not qualify as a valid card for the ticket. When the conductor as well as the other passengers explained to the woman how the government had said that only specific cards could be used to avail the zero ticket, she threatened to take action against the conductor.

BMTC officials said that the problems the conductors are now experiencing are not very different from what they used to experience before the scheme. A senior official in BMTC said, "Even back then, they had to check passes, now they have to check ID cards. They used to issue tickets, now the number is more. It is true that the pressure has increased a little, but we have been repeatedly giving circulars, which are both crew and passenger friendly. When serious incidents occur, we will see who is in the wrong and take appropriate action."

'Higher level of air pollutants in western parts and major roads'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A study conducted by the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP), has found out that there was not much difference in the ambient particulate matter (PM2.5) concentration levels in urban and suburban areas of the city.

It has also been found that higher PM2.5 concentration levels were present particularly in the western parts like Dasarahalli, Rajarajeshwarinagar and parts of Bommanahalli. Very high levels of PM2.5 were found on major road networks like Mysuru Road, NICE Road, Kanakapura Road, Magadi Main Road, and Tumakuru Road.

In BBMP area

With an objective to gain insights into the pollution patterns of Bengaluru, a hybrid measurement approach was employed by the study to generate high resolution air pollution maps. The study was limited to the BBMP area.

"A mobile monitoring campaign was conducted where various monitoring instruments were set up in a CNG-fuelled car, which covered approximately 10% of the city's roads, to measure on-road mass concentrations of fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$), black carbon (BC), and number concentrations of ultrafine particles (UFPs). Additionally, a city-wide network of 55 low-cost sensors was established to measure ambient $PM_{2.5}$ levels," said a press release from CSTEP.

To gain insights into the pollution patterns of the city, a hybrid measurement approach was employed by a study to generate high resolution air pollution maps

It also said that the data was corrected for their respective instrument biases and then used along with regulatory data from pollution control board monitors to predict pollutant levels at 50 m resolution using land-use regression models.

The report which was released on Thursday said in winter season, the ambient PM 2.5 levels (and their spatial variability) were higher than during the summer season.

Partnered with Google

To provide better access to the officials from Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) and those from Institutions of Repute (IOR), CSTEP partnered with Google to develop hyperlocal air quality maps from the data collected and make it available through its Environmental Insights Explorer (EIE) tool. This will help the officials to assess PM2.5 as well as other pollutant concentration levels for major roads and highways in Bengaluru which is in turn expected to make it easier to identify pollution hotspots and introduce interventions.

"While $PM_{2.5}$ is fairly uniform across the city, combustion-sourced BC is more variable and can be significantly higher on-road, increasing the health risk of Bengaluru residents who spend a lot of time in traffic. This massive data set can be further mined to identify time-resolved hyperlocal hot spots and technology interventions to get us closer to clean air for all," said Dr R Subramanian, Sector Head of Air Quality, CSTEP.

The study has proposed various policy recommendations based on the findings including the prioritisation of mitigation activities abating vehicular emissions in the western parts of the BBMP area and the adoption of regional strategies rather than city-specific action plans.

Bengaluru hailed best 'RRR' city in State

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru has been chosen as the best RRR (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) city in the State in a campaign run by the Directorate Municipal Administration of Urban Development Department.

My Life, My Clean City was a national campaign launched by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

Under the programme that was held from May 25 to June 5, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) set up 49 RRR plants for the public to give used plastic and other materials. According to the officials, the campaign received massive response with people giving used materials in large numbers.

On Thursday, Municipal Administration Minister Rahim Khan issued a certificate to BBMP for excelling in the work carried out under the programme.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath lauded the efforts of Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited.

Police to send undercover personnel to expose corruption in booking drunk driving cases

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The police have decided to send undercover personnel in a bid to counter allegations of corruption while booking drunk and driving (DD) cases. Besides that, Police Commissioner B. Dayanand has made it mandatory for all patrolling personnel to wear body cameras.

A file photo of traffic police checking motorists in Bengaluru.

Earlier, sub-inspectors and assistant sub-inspectors were told to conduct special drives and book DD cases with the aim of reducing accidents. Sources said this led to rampant corruption.

Police personnel allegedly used to pocket money from offenders after threatening to book cases, which could result in a fine of ₹10,000 and also seizure of the vehicle. The offender had to go to court to pay the fine, and get back the vehicle.

To curb corruption, the Traffic Department changed strategy. They empowered only inspectors to book DD cases.

In addition, inspectors had to inform seniors about the date and place of the special drive, which could be conducted twice a week. During such drives, police personnel are expected to wear body camera, explained an officer.

On July 20, Joint Commissioner M.N. Anucheth put a post on his social media account, thanking motorists in Bengaluru for driving responsibly. The traffic police conducted DD drives across Bengaluru on July 19. They checked 4,669 drivers, of which only 172 were drunk while driving.

On the surface, the results appeared impressive. But as complaints of corruption continued to pour in, the traffic police are now planning to send undercover personnel to track down corrupt staff.

30 electricity poles stolen from Rachenahalli lake premises

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

About 30 electricity poles placed on Rachenahalli lake premises in Dasarahalli for development purposes were allegedly stolen in the night hours when the Home Guard was sitting near the main gate of the 104-acre lake. An FIR is filed at Amruthahalli police station.

On July 14, the Home Guard, identified as D.R. Basavaraj, who was deployed to guard the lake, took a stroll around the lake around 8 p.m. and ensured construction and other materials were safe. According to Basavaraj, the area was receiving moderate to heavy rains making it impossible to stand inside the lake premises.

Basavaraj said the lake department of the BBMP has been carrying out development works around the lake, and construction materials were dumped at the site. Along with other materials, electricity poles were also kept.

After patrolling, he came near the main gate of the waterbody, a little far from the place where these materials were kept. The lake is located about 1.8 km from Amruthahalli police station. He stayed at the main gate till 5 a.m. the next morning (July 15) and when the rain stopped, he decided to patrol around the lake again.

Basavaraj said when he came near the edge of the lake, the poles were missing. There were about 30 such poles. On the same day, after informing official concerned, he approached the local police and filed the complaint.

The police said they have leads in the case.

Scientists find 600-million-year-old ocean water from Himalayas

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Scientists of Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and Niigata University, Japan, have discovered droplets of water trapped in mineral deposits in the Himalayas that were likely left behind from an ancient ocean which existed 600 million years ago.

The scientists believe that the 600-million-year-old ocean water from the Himalayas can provide information on the evolution of oceans, and even life, in Earth's history.

IISc said that scientists believe that between 700 to 500 million years ago, thick sheets of ice covered the Earth for an extended period, called the Snowball Earth glaciation (one of the major glacial events in Earth's history).

What followed this was an increase in the amount of oxygen in the Earth's atmosphere, called the Second Great Oxygenation Event, which eventually led to the evolution of complex life forms. So far, scientists have not fully understood how these events were connected due to the lack of well-preserved fossils and the disappearance of all past oceans that existed in the Earth's history.

The scientists believe that this ocean water can provide information on the evolution of oceans

Exposures of such marine rocks in the Himalayas can provide some answers, the institute said.

A time capsule

"We have found a time capsule for paleo oceans. We don't know much about past oceans. How different or similar were they compared to present-day oceans? Were they more acidic or basic, nutrient-rich or deficient, warm or cold, and what was their chemical and isotopic composition? Such insights could also provide clues about the Earth's past climate, and this information can be useful for climate modelling," said Prakash Chandra Arya, Ph.D. student at the Centre for Earth Sciences (CEaS), IISc, and first author of the study published in Precambrian Research.

The deposits found by the team - which date back to around the time of the Snowball Earth glaciation - showed that the sedimentary basins were deprived of calcium for an extended period, probably due to low riverine input.

The long hunt

IISc said that the team hunted for these deposits across a long stretch of the western Kumaon Himalayas, extending from Amritpur to the Milam glacier, and Dehradun to the Gangotri glacier region.

Using extensive laboratory analysis, they were able to confirm that the deposits are a product of precipitation from ancient ocean water, and not from other places, such as the Earth's interior (for example, from submarine volcanic activity).

(Top) Field exposures of magnesite near Chandak Hills, Kumaon. (Bottom) microphotographs of ocean water trapped in magnesite crystals.

Prison worker arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Security personnel on Tuesday caught a vehicle maintenance man of the central prison allegedly trying to smuggle a mobile phone inside, which he had concealed in his undergarment.

The accused Bhanuprakash H.R. was caught by security personnel Jayath Kumar G.R. and Harish B.

He was handed over to prison authorities.

The incident has gained importance in the backdrop of a terror module, which was created inside the prison, being busted.

Hepatitis B killed Beethoven, reveals forensic DNA analysis

Medical investigations to determine the cause of the music maestro's death have finally ended after ancestral DNA forensics entered the equation. Today being World Hepatitis Day there is some added significance to the findings

Cyriac Abby Philips

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

Ludwig von Beethoven was born in 1770 in Bonn, Germany. His approach to music composition changed the way people appreciated music - from just a pastime, pleasurable hearing, to a transformational powerhouse intervention. Beethoven died in 1827 and decades prior to his death, he suffered multiple illnesses, so it was difficult to connect symptoms and signs of grave illness which remained a mystery even after his demise. Beethoven knew he was unwell and was dying. His hearing was progressively declining. He had multiple gastrointestinal issues from bloating to diarrhoea which haunted him since he was 20 years of age. He asked his favourite physician, Johann Adam Schmidt that upon his death, he describe his illness and make his diagnosis public. Unfortunately, tragedy struck and Dr. Johann died early. Beethoven outlived him by 18 years and his request was denied.

Thus started one of the greatest medical investigations that featured some of the most intensive clinical and basic science research to find the maestro's actual cause of death. And the answers came 200 years later.

After his death, Beethoven's associates found multiple stacks of letters that the music maestro had written to his brothers, which described his illness, the painful ordeal and about him contemplating suicide to get out of the hell-cycle. The collection of letters came to be known as the Heiligenstadt Testament of 1802. Around the time of his death, his admirers snipped numerous locks of his hair and kept them as personal collections. The eight locks were named thus: Müller, Bermann, Halm-Thayer, Moscheles, Stumpff, Cramolini-Brown, Hiller, and Kessler Lock Collections.

The quest to find the cause of Beethoven's death relied heavily on bibliographic sources, including Beethoven's letters, conversation books and diaries, and the accounts of his contemporaries, including doctor's notes, autopsy reports, and descriptions of bone material after exhumations in 1863 (for moving to a new sarcophagus) and 1888 (for moving to a new cemetery). Additionally, analyses of tissue sources claimed to originate from the music composer have been performed, including toxicological analyses of hairs of from private collections of unknown authenticity and palaeopathological examinations of skull fragments.

In 2007, a group of researchers led by Christian Reiter of the Medical University of Vienna claimed that the cause of Beethoven's death was lead poisoning. They claimed that his doctor had probably killed him because he had repeatedly used lead-based salts to clean wounds and during drug administrations which eventually poisoned him, resulting in his death. This conclusion was made, after chemical analysis of one of the collected hair locks was analysed exhaustively. The lead poisoning theory of Beethoven's death stuck with the medical and music community for decades.

Beethoven suffered from three major issues - progressive hearing loss, recurrent abdominal pain and diarrhea and two attacks of jaundice, the last one towards the end of 1826, culminating in his death. He had fluid in his abdomen that had to be removed using a large bore needle.

The composer received abdominal punctures four times on his deathbed, draining up to 14 liters of fluid from his abdominal cavity each time - a procedure known as large volume paracentesis of ascites. The lead poisoning theory was unable to substantiate all of the disease-related challenges Beethoven faced, especially the autopsy finding of chronic liver damage or cirrhosis.

The truth remained buried until now in 2023 when the indomitable Tristan Begg, from the Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge used modern DNA extraction techniques along with a masterful method called genome-wide association studies using ancestry DNA databases on the seemingly worthless item recovered from Beethoven centuries ago - all eight locks of his hair found by private collectors.

Genetic data are used to estimate the geographic origins of a person's recent ancestors in genetic ancestry testing. It entails comparing the frequencies of a large number of DNA variants measured in an individual to the frequencies of these variants in reference populations collected from around the world - a large database created as a result of various companies performing direct-to-consumer DNA analysis on personally and voluntarily submitted samples.

The geographic region with the highest frequency of an individual variant is thought to be the most likely location of an ancestor who passed the variant on to the person being tested.

Traditional ancestry analysis includes testing for the mitochondrial DNA (transmitted only by females and reflecting the origin of one maternal ancestor) and the Y chromosomal DNA (transmitted only from father to son and reflecting the origin of one paternal ancestor).

In Beethoven's case, the DNA sequencing on four and an additional one of the eight locks was found to come from from the same individual, a male of European heritage - meaning, the others were not authentic. And surprisingly, the three locks with less authenticity came from three other unrelated individuals. Interestingly, analysis of one of those hair samples - the so-called Hiller Lock, showed high levels of lead and that it came from that it came from a woman likely of North African, Middle Eastern, or Jewish ancestry, which was the reason for wrong diagnosis of lead poisoning in the first place by the previous group of researchers.

So, what did Beethoven die of? He had died of liver disease. His autopsy showed cirrhosis. But what was killing his liver? The brilliant genome analysis found two genes that are now notoriously known to cause liver cirrhosis - the PNPLA-3 gene and HFE-gene mutation both of which are associated with chronic liver damage. But they did not act alone.

There had to be a driving factor which caused the chronic damage. And the researchers found it. One of humankind's most ancient friend, but also its greatest foe - alcohol. From interviews and documented conversations with friends and contemporaries, it was evident that the maestro consumed a significant amount of alcohol, which, along with genetic mutations resulted in cirrhosis and his death. But Tristan Begg and his colleagues were not ready for what was coming next.

Along with the genetic mutation and the alcohol was another tiny but devastatingly ancient pathogen which they found in his hair strand on DNA analysis. And they knew that this little monster drove Beethoven to his death with everything else at the back seat - the Hepatitis B virus.

And two centuries after his death, and medical sciences' fascination with research and diagnosis, and with our curiosity with Beethoven that led us to probe every corner of his life - his letters, his writings, his medical records, and now his very DNA - the cause of the brilliant musician's death was finally unravelled - cirrhosis brought on by alcohol and a multiple-gene-related inherited liver risk driven to failure by the presence of Hepatitis B virus infection. This is why medical science exists.

And as our scientific tools become sharper, we look forward to unravelling the mysteries of human health (and death) to prevent and defeat suffering.

But did I tell you the biggest scandal of all in this hardcore analysis project which flabbergasted even the researchers?Ancestral DNA analysis revealed that the Y-chromosome that Beethoven inherited was not of Aert van Beethoven - his presumed biological father, but another man, strongly suggestive of an extramarital paternity event, which mind-numbingly means that "Beethoven may not have been a Beethoven."

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BIG SHOT

Battle against bites: A fumigation drive to prevent vector-borne diseases being carried out at a flood relief camp in New Delhi. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

The relevance of U.S.' first over-the-counter birth control pill

Saumya Kalia

Experts see the U.S. FDA's approval of Opill as a way to 'off-set' the abortion restrictions placed by the overthrow of 60-year-old Roe v. Wade protections.

In a landmark decision, the U.S. Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) on July 13 approved Opill, the first oral contraceptive that can be purchased over the counter without prescription – nearly 60 years after birth control was first introduced in the U.S. The American Medical Association (AMA) called the decision a "monumental step", expected to expand access to a safe method of contraception in a stifling reproductive health landscape, barricaded with abortion restrictions and infrastructure gaps. "Since losing legally protected access to abortion care [under Roe v. Wade], there has been a frenzy of activity around restoring and enhancing reproductive care," explains Sanjam Ahluwalia, a Women's and Gender Studies professor at the Northern Arizona University. FDA's decision comes "in response to the urgency of the moment".

The contraceptive Opill. REUTERS

What is Opill?

The Opill, or the 'minipill', is a progestin-only pill (POP) using a synthetic version of the hormone progesterone called norgestrel. The typical combination birth control pill contains a formulation of both progesterone and estrogen. Opill's story goes back to 1973 when norgestrel was first approved for use in the U.S., but combination pills soared in popularity.

Opill uses low doses (0.075-milligram) of progestin to thicken the cervical mucus and thin the uterus's lining, blocking the sperm from the cervix. POPs also stop ovulation in some cases (40% of women continued to ovulate).

The approval means an over-the-counter pill will be available in pharmacies – akin to over-the-counter condoms, aspirin and other drugs. People can access the pill without consultations from a primary physician or gynaecologist. The Ireland-based manufacturer Perrigo said Opill will be available in the U.S. next year.

"Opill should be used daily, at the same time and continuously till one wants the contraceptive effect," explains Dr. Ankita Gharge, a gynaecologist. The effect of the pill lasts for roughly 24 hours. If delayed by more than three hours, the person may have to take a backup birth control for two days, she adds. Taken correctly, only two in 100 women get pregnant in their first year of taking norgestrel (a 98% efficacy), according to the FDA.

POPs are advised for those who are estrogen-intolerant, have a history of blood disorders, high blood pressure and heart problems.

The FDA advised against using Opill alongside hormonal contraceptives including oral tablets, vaginal rings or intra-uterine devices (IUD). Like other minipills, Opill is not for emergency contraceptive use. Minipill is not suitable for people with a history of breast cancer and undiagnosed vaginal bleeding. Other side effects include irregular menstrual bleeding, headaches, dizziness, nausea, acne, increased appetite, abdominal pain, per the FDA. Opill is currently sold without a prescription in the United Kingdom. More than 15.1 crore people opt for oral birth control pills globally.

Opill vs Combination

Hormonal birth pills vary by mode of action and direction of use. Combination pills are varied: there is a mixture of 'active' and 'inactive' (placebo, where there are no hormones) pills. One common type is 21 active pills and seven inactive pills. POPs, on the other hand, have a fixed composition of progestin in their 28-pill pack. The failure rate of is the same as that of combined pills, a study shows.

Oral contraceptive pills do not protect against HIV and AIDS, and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), for which barrier contraceptives such as condoms are advised. "People can use POPs in combination with condoms," Dr. Gharge says. People's choice of pills will depend on individual health markers, desired contraceptive duration and their need to prevent sexually transmitted infections. Estrogen reduces the quantity of milk produced; combination pills are thus ill-advised for women who breastfeed. The rule of thumb, says Dr. Gharge, is to consult a doctor to find the right contraceptive.

How safe is Opill?

FDA validated the safety and efficacy of Opill based on eight clinical studies. They mapped 2,173 women, 53% of whom were Caucasian and 47% African American, between 15 to 49 years. A separate review of the literature examining minipill's efficacy also found the minipill "highly effective in clinical use".

FDA scientists previously voiced concern that minors and people with limited literacy may not adhere to label instructions, glimpsing over side effects. There is also a tendency to over-indulge in OTC birth control pills, mentions Dr. Gharge, adding that a lack of awareness about different contraceptives restricts women from making informed choices.

Label instructions on OTC pills thus function as a guiding star. The manufacturer demonstrated that consumers were able to use the product effectively relying only on the drug labelling, without any outside consultation, the FDA confirmed. A health panel in May said the public health benefits of making a nonprescription birth control pill available outweigh the "limited number of risks from the medication itself".

A milestone

Opill is a triumph on two fronts: the minipill is another option for safe contraception, and its OTC availability eliminates obstacles of bias, money, time and distance, not to mention stigma. Black women were more likely than white women to use a lesser effective contraceptive, such as condoms, or no contraceptive at all, due to systemic barriers and discrimination.Medical organisations await details on Opill's cost and health insurance coverage - which will determine its accessibility.

The ecstatic reception is also in response to the "fraught moment" in U.S. history, where the approval is a "way to offset" the abortion restrictions in the aftermath of repealing Roe v. Wade's protection, Prof. Ahluwalia adds. Restricting abortion care, while making contraceptives inaccessible, will result in unwanted pregnancies that people would be forced to carry to term. A 2022 report found almost half of all pregnancies globally are unintended; more than 60% of these end in abortion and 45% of all abortions are unsafe.

Reproductive rights remain unresolved globally: India, for instance, offers access to OTC pills and has extended abortion care to women irrespective of marital status, but contraceptive use remains the lowest among women from marginalised communities. The National Family Health Survey-5 found the burden of family planning responsibility falls mostly on women. Although abortion is legal, a report found 67% of abortions in India are unsafe. Entrenched stigma, shortage of doctors, public health gaps feed into contraceptive inequities.

The history of reproductive rights documents how contraceptive technologies, regulated by patriarchal norms, have encumbered women as 'users' for over a century. Add to this birth control pills' chequered past, intertwined with colonialism and eugenics. The pill has always promised imperfect salvation, activists argue, but complex problems make do with imperfect solutions.Activists say OTC access to pills cannot be viewed in isolation. Efforts to develop an inclusive vocabulary --- which articulates the need for sex education, affordable and safe contraceptives, and reproductive care -- must follow.

When birth control pills were introduced in the 1960s, "women joined the workforce in large numbers. There was empowerment, a freedom that women got from having access to the pill," Prof Ahluwalia says. The conversation has come full circle: "In 2023, we are at a point where women are singularly burdened with the responsibility of contraceptive usage."

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Can tunnel roads really fix Bengaluru's traffic scene?

The proposed plan, while enjoying the backing of industrialists, has been opposed by experts and activists vociferously

EXPLAINER

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

In areas where flyovers have come up, traffic congestion is pushed a little further creating new choke points.

The story so far
Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar has proposed building of tunnel roads with the aim to fix Bengaluru's notorious traffic problem. The Minister recently held a meeting with a private company which displayed a plan through power point presentation. The plan is to convert the earlier-proposed elevated corridor network (which had run into controversy) into tunnel network. A team led by Mr. Shivakumar will be studying tunnel roads of Singapore, besides conducting feasible study.

Where are the tunnel roads planned?
The tunnel roads are planned on North-South Corridor (Mekhri Circle to Central Silk Board), East-West Corridor -1 (K R Puram to Goraguntepalya), East-West Corridor - 2 (Varthur Road to Jnanabharati), Conneting Corridor - 1 (Connecting East West Corridor-2 at St John's Hospital Junction to Agara on Outer Ring Road), Connecting Corridor-2 (Connecting East West Corridor-1 at Ulsoor to East-West Corridor-2 at D'Souza Circle) and Connecting Corridor-3 (Connecting East West Corridor-1 at Wheeler's Road Junction to Kalyan Nagar at Outer Ring Road). The total length of this network will be 92.195 km. Instead of an elevated corridor proposed back in 2017, it appears like the minister is planning to replace the same with tunnels.

The proposed plan, while enjoying the backing industrialists, has been opposed by experts and activists vociferously. Will this project help Bengaluru rid itself of its infamous traffic woes is a question on everyone's mind. The buzz around proposed tunnel roads, backed by a section of Bengaluru-based industrialists and entrepreneurs, does sound fancy. But the promise of fixing notorious traffic snarls may fall flat, further choking already congested city roads, those opposed to the proposal say.

The failure of several flyovers and underpasses built in the City, which has over one crore vehicular population, holds a mirror to poor road infrastructure planning. Activists have pointed out that, for instance, the Hebbal flyover on the northern part ended up adding more traffic not just on the structure but also at entry and exit points. The flyover is also the root cause for snarls in multiple places on the airport road. In areas where flyovers have come up, traffic congestion is pushed a little further creating new choke points. And tunnel roads will be no different to this, say those opposed to it.

What it will cost and is it really a solution?
Tunnel roads will cost about ₹453 crore per kilometer. While the cost is exorbitant, questions are being raised on whether it will only increase traffic at inlets and outlets of these roads, creating more bottlenecks, rather than solving the issue. The only solution to decongest Bengaluru is switching to public transport and increasing the urban rail network. Tunnel or otherwise, no road infrastructure can end traffic woes, many traffic and road infrastructure experts have always argued.

For instance, a flyover on the double road chokes residency road making commuters spend 15 minutes on the stretch during the peak hours. The vehicle movement is swift only on the flyover but traffic problems near the entry and exit have only increased.

What are the concerns over tunnel road project?
Professor, M. N. Srihari, a traffic expert, said the tunnel road will just reduce traffic from point A to point B where the structure has come up. The huge traffic will pile up on both ends rendering the concept useless ultimately. He pointed out that the metro rail network and suburban rail project that cost less than the proposed plan is the only solution for the traffic.

Srihari further explained that the project has safety concerns. As tunnel roads are closed, in the event of accidents, it would become hard to carry the injured to the hospital in time. The accidents will again generate massive traffic. If any accident occurs inside the tunnel the vehicular pile-up will only further exacerbate. "In whatever way we look, this idea is bad and will not solve the problem," he said.

There is yet another kind of safety concern, say activists. Bengaluru's earthquake seismic activity classification has been on the increase, and therefore, it might not be a wise idea to shake the foundations of Bengaluru, said Sandeep Anirudhan, Convener, Citizens' Agenda for Bengaluru.

How does tunnel road sound as investment choice?
More importantly, an investment choice, tunnel road is a really unviable, many argue. A road will have a capacity to carry about 1500 people per hour. Whereas a metro will generate a capacity of 60,000 people per hour, and suburban rail about 90,000 people per hour. Even a low-cost BRTS system introduced on existing arterial surface roads can enhance capacity to 45,000 per hour. Therefore, at an estimated ₹453 crores per kilometre, the tunnel road is not a wise choice, argued Mr. Anirudhan.

Metro construction will cost about the same, the BRTS system will cost only about one-tenth that cost and the suburban rail can be implemented at a fraction of the cost. All these will cost anywhere between ₹10 crore to ₹100 crore per kilometre, Mr. Anirudhan pointed. In this age, when Singapore has completely abandoned their underground roads project, because it found it more prudent to shift to a Mass Rapid Transit strategy, and a zero car policy, a project of this kind makes little sence, he argues.

Can tunnel roads work in any part of city?
Professor Chandra Kishan of Indian Institute of Science said if the tunnel roads are planned in such a way that it would enable commuters move from one point to another without entering into core areas of the city, this may be of help. Otherwise, the traffic congestion will shift from one place to another. "On the outskirts it is good. It should be planned in such a way," he said.

City hospital to start clinical trials of gene therapy for ocular diseases

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The plan is to initially start with gene therapy as a solution for genetic corneal disorders

In an effort to make gene therapy affordable, researchers from Narayana Nethralaya, a Bengaluru-based ophthalmic hospital, are all set to start human clinical trials of indigenous gene therapy for ocular diseases.

This is the first such effort in the country, doctors claimed.

Gene therapy is a treatment modality to correct the pathologic effects of defective genes that are responsible for disease development.

Cost factor
"While gene therapy trials have been happening in Western countries for over 30 years, no trials have been done in India so far. Patients in our country are unable to get the benefits of the therapy because of the exorbitant costs. One injection of the therapy can cost ₹7 crore and above.

Many Indian patients need gene therapy, and the cost can be reduced only if the technologies are developed indigenously," said Rohit Shetty, hospital chairman.

Pointing out that the plan is to initially start with gene therapy as a solution for genetic corneal disorders such as keratoconus through indigenously developed adeno-associated virus (AAV) vector production and delivery, Dr. Shetty said, "The process has begun.

We are awaiting the Centre's approval to start the trials and are hopeful of completing the first phase of trials by early next year."

Focused meeting
Naren Shetty, the hospital vice-chairman, said the announcement was made after a two-day focused meeting that was held in Bengaluru from July 22 to come out with a consensus on indigenous gene therapy trials. The meeting was attended by over 25 prominent clinicians and scientists from top national and international institutes in the country.

"At the meeting, our scientists showcased how their indigenously developed vectors and production process can significantly reduce the cost of gene therapy to 1/20th-1/50th of the international costs."

"The meeting also resulted in a consensus on establishing a national registry for rare ophthalmic diseases and identified additional diseases in India that urgently require gene therapy," he said.

Clinical grade vector production
Making a presentation on indigenous gene therapy, Arkasubhra Ghosh, a geneticist at Narayana Nethralaya Foundation's GROW (Genes Repair and Regeneration in Ophthalmic Workstation) Research Laboratory, said the process of starting the first human AAV gene therapy trials for corneal dystrophy and the first dual AAV vector trial for Stargardt retinal disease had begun.

Dr. Ghosh, who is one of the authors of the National Guidelines for Gene Therapy Product Development and Clinical Trials, said,

"The drug-making process is a major technological challenge, and we are the first in India with the clinical grade vector production."

Dr. Rohit Shetty said patients seeking voluntary participation in gene therapy treatment could contact the hospital at 080-6666-0715 or email genetictest@narayananethralaya.com

Callaway Golf India launches first golf fitting centre

Golf is seen as a growing market In South India.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Golf equipment manufacturer Callaway Golf India has launched India's first golf fitting centre at the Karnataka Golf Association (KGA,) Bengaluru.

According to the company, golf has been seeing a growing market In South India, and the fitting centre is expected to be an accessible location for golfers across the country, particularly from neighbouring cities such as Chennai, Mysore, Hyderabad, and Mangalore.

Cricket legend Kapil Dev, KGA president Suresh Jois Chandrashekhar, Callaway Golf India country manager Prashant Singh and Christopher James - Head Club Fitter at Callaway Gold Europe were present at the launch.

The company noted that the brand has had a long and robust partnership with KGA.

"We are thrilled to announce the opening of our performance centre in Bengaluru, a facility dedicated to enhancing the golfing experience for enthusiasts across India," said Mr.. Prashant Singh, country manager at Callaway Golf.

"With an unwavering belief in the positive impact this state-of-the-art centre will have on players' games, we are committed to ensuring every golfer identifies the perfect set of Callaway equipment, ultimately elevating their performance and enjoyment on the course.Golfers of all levels are warmly invited to immerse themselves in this unparalleled experience, benefiting from personalised fittings and expert guidance," he added.

One of the biggest gaming festivals is about to hit the city this weekend

The festival aims to bridge the gap between gamers and their fans in the community

Ruth Dhanaraj
BENGALURU

S8UL members during a gaming event in Hyderabad 2022.

Popular esport and gaming organisation, S8UL, will be hosting its first-ever gaming festival in Bengaluru. Held over two days, the S8UL Gaming Fest will see fans from all over the country participate in numerous contests and engage in gaming specials.

"Unlike most similar festivals, we've structured it as an open show based only on its creators and gamers without the involvement of third parties," says Animesh Agarwal aka 8Bit Thug, Co-founder and CEO, of S8UL. "Every creator under our banner will be the key showstoppers at this event."

The event is a celebration of S8UL's four-year anniversary as an organisation and according to Animesh, it is not only a chance for them to present themselves to stakeholders as well as fans, but also help bridge the gap between gamers and their fans in the community.

"The two-day festival will begin with a meet-and-greet, followed by events and games such as Mortal Kombat, FIFA, and others with a chance win prizes and merchandise. Fans will also get a chance to interact with their favourite creators whom they've so far only seen playing on YouTube."

Perhaps what gamers would enjoy the most would be the tournament face-offs between all S8UL creators, culminating in a grand finale on Day Two. "The FIFA showdown between Mortal and Scout will be something fans would not want to miss," he says.

S8UL's global trophies and awards will also be on display at the event (Global Recognition for Impact in Mobile Gaming and Esports Award for Content Group of the Year), making for photo-worthy backdrops.

Fans will be able to experience the newest games and play on the latest devices at the venue which will see leading creators, brands and publishers at this immersive gaming experience. They will get to show off their skills and participate in cosplay, compete in tournaments with their favourite gamers and indulge in all things gaming.

Fans will be able to experience the newest games and play on the latest devices

Sponsored by Lenovo and Intel, in partnership with The Esports Club, one of the most exciting aspects of the S8UL Gaming Fest is that there will be no entry fee.

The S8UL Gaming Fest will take place at the Manpho Convention Centre, Bengaluru on July 29 and 30, from 10am to 7pm.

More details are available on S8UL's social media pages. Passes for the gaming festival are live on Eventbrite VIP passes available on Bookmyshow.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 28, 1973

Urs' Call to Grain Merchants

Bangalore, July 27: The Mysore Chief Minister Mr. D. Devaraj Urs called upon the grain merchants of Bangalore to-day to evolve an arrangement through which the price of rice could be brought down and assured all assistance from the Government including the lifting of restrictions on inter-district movement of paddy for bringing rice to Bangalore.

The Chief Minister, who had a frank exchange of views with the representatives of rice mill owners and wholesale and retail grain merchants impressed on them the need for bringing down the price of coarse rice to at least Rs. 150 a quintal.

Rs. 44 Crores spent on relief works in drought-hit areas

Bangalore, July 27: The State Government has asked the Deputy Commissioners in the drought-hit areas to formulate the employment pattern to be followed in these areas in the next four months.

A meeting of the Deputy Commissioners and Divisional Commissioners from the drought-affected areas held here to-day reviewed the seasonal conditions and the situation following recent rain in almost all the affected parts.

The Deputy Commissioners felt that there were some packets where the conditions were still unsatisfactory. They also felt that employment would have to be provided till November.

Hospitals in city witness increase in conjunctivitis cases over last week

'One of the challenges with severe cases is the sequelae. In around 8% of people getting this disease, we are seeing residual changes on the cornea as the virus creates some scarring on the cornea'

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

There has been a spurt in the number of conjunctivitis cases over the last fortnight and some city hospitals are receiving nearly 30 cases a day. Doctors, who said an outbreak during monsoon is not unusual, pointed out that many patients are reporting with a virulent form of conjunctivitis.

Conjunctivitis, also known as 'pink eye', is an inflammation of a thin transparent membrane covering the eyeball called conjunctiva .The symptoms include redness, watering and mild discharge, apart from swelling of the eyes and eyelids. Apart from pain and discomfort, patients have a pricking sensation each time they blink.

At the State-run Minto Ophthalmic Hospital, two out of every ten patients seen in the outpatient department (OPD) have conjunctivitis. Hospital Director B. L. Sujatha Rathod said the cases have increased over the last week. The hospital sees over 600 patients in the OPD everyday.

Conjunctivitis, also known as 'pink eye', is an inflammation of a thin transparent membrane covering the eyeball called conjunctiva. FILE PHOTO

"We prescribe mild antibiotic drops to prevent secondary bacterial infections and lubricant drops to flush out toxins," she said.

Weather effect

Pallavi Joshi, Consultant in Cornea, Ocular Surface and Refractive Surgery at Sankara Eye Hospital, said the eye infection is spreading rapidly and this could be mainly due to the sudden change in weather.

"Our hospital has seen a 60% rise in patients in the last four days. To prevent the disease from spreading it is important to practice regular hand washing and avoid touching your eyes. If infected, isolate yourself at home and refrain from sharing towels/ handkerchiefs. Consult an ophthalmologist immediately instead of using over-the-counter medication," she said.

"Early treatment can reduce corneal involvement and potential complications affecting vision. Notably, conjunctivitis is not spread through eye contact with an infected person. However the patient's eye secretions can be contagious for at least five to 10 days," she said.

At Narayana Nethralaya, where over 25 cases are seen daily, most patients are presenting with secondary bacterial infections. Hospital chairman Rohit Shetty said totally over a hundred patients are seen daily in all the four branches of the hospital. "We are seeing both viral and bacterial infections. In some cases, the infection lingers on for a few days. A person with viral conjunctivitis

But, what is worrisome is nearly 30% of these patients are coming with a virulent form of the disease as they are developing secondary bacterial infections

has a slight fever with mild discharge and redness in the eyes," he said.

Corneal scarring

"But, what is worrisome is nearly 30% of these patients are coming with a virulent form of the disease as they are developing secondary bacterial infections. One of the challenges with severe cases is the sequelae. In around 8% of people getting this disease, we are seeing residual changes on the cornea as the virus creates some scarring on the cornea," he said. He said because of the scarring, some people find it hard reading or driving at night even after the infection subsides. Those with allergies and comorbidities are at high risk. "It is important to identify the corneal scarring at the earliest and treat them accordingly," he said.

After baby's death, father, grandfather booked

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following the death of a month-old baby, after the newborn and the mother were made to stay in a hut outside their Gollarahatti village in Tumakuru district, in accordance with a tradition in the Kadugolla community, an FIR has been filed against the baby's father and grandfather.

Last month, Vasantha, wife of Siddesh, gave birth to twins at the Tumakuru district hospital. The baby boy died during delivery. The mother, who returned home with the newborn baby girl, was made to stay in a hut outside the village, as they were considered *sutaka* (impure).

After the child developed fever, the Department of Women and Child Development took the mother and the baby to the district hospital where the infant died in the intensive care unit.

As per the direction given by the High Court and the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority, district court judge and member-secretary of the District Legal Service Authority Nurunnisa visited Gollarahatti and ordered the filing of a complaint against the father and grandfather of the infant. On the basis of the complaint given by Rajashri R. Mang, Child Development Project Officer, the Kora police have booked an FIR against Siddesh, father of the deceased infant and grandfather Chikkahuligappa.

Member-secretary of Tumakuru District Legal Services Authority Nurunnisa and other officials at Gollarahatti.

Meanwhile, Sridhar, Deputy Director of the Department of Women and Child Development, said, "We visited Gollarahatti and impressed upon them the need to forgo such practices."

Lack of awareness

However, members of the Kadugolla community alleged that the district administration had failed to create awareness against the practice.

Chikkanna, a Kadugolla community member from Tumakuru, said, "Majority of Kadugolla community people live in Tumakuru and Chitradurga. Many people, even the educated, practise the custom. The administration has failed to create awareness among the community. They visit the place only when such incidents take place."

Basava Ramananda Swamiji of Sri Vanakallu Mutt, Bengaluru Rural district, said Kadugolla is a tribal and nomadic community that once lived in forests. To avoid infection, they would keep newborn babies, mothers and menstruating women separate. "Now, due to the lack of separate rooms and toilets, some people keep the newborn and mother in a hut outside the village. For many years we have been trying to create awareness in the community," he said.

Project for detection, treatment for oral cancer announced

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To create a multidimensional data-centric platform for prevention, early detection, and treatment of oral cancers, Biocon Foundation has taken up a Oral Potentially Malignant Disorders (OPMD) Atlas Project, in coordination with four other healthcare institutes.

The project was announced at Biocon Foundation's 4th edition of Oral Cancer Task Force (OCTF) conference, held on the outskirts of Bengaluru on Thursady. Titled 'Oral Potentially Malignant Lesion Atlas Project: Validating the Efficacy of a Novel, Point-of-Care Diagnostics and Developing an Integrated Multidimensional, Prognostic Nomogram', this five-year project will commence in the first week of August, said Praveen Birur, principal investigator of the project.

"We will screen over 20,000 patients for the project, of which 5,000 patients will be recruited for the study. The patient recruitment will begin in April, and we will follow-up with them every three months," he said.

Collaborative effort

The research project, which is funded by a Central Government grant, will be carried out in collaboration with Mazumdar-Shaw Medical Foundation, the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, KLE Society's Institute of Dental Sciences, Bengaluru, the Department of Preventive Oncology, NCI-AIIMS - Jhajjar, and the Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital, Varanasi. Patients will be screened at all these institutes, said Dr. Birur.

"The project will leverage advances in data science and Artificial Intelligence to combine datasets.This platform will not only provide insights into better oral cancer diagnosis and management, but also lead to the development of pragmatic and reliable approaches for the diagnosis and surveillance of patients with OPMD," he added.

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, founder and managing trustee of Biocon Foundation, said ". "I believe this Atlas project will help in developing a cost-effective and sustainable national oral cancer control programme in India."

Techie found dead

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 25-year-old techie allegedly ended her life after being cheated by her male friend in Soladevanahalli last Friday.

The deceased, identified as Vidyashri, left a note blaming her friend Akshay, 26, for the extreme step.

According to the police, Vidyashri, an MCA graduate and working at a private firm, was in relationship with Akshay since one year. The police said the accused cheated her and had also taken ₹1.7 lakh from her.

Feeling dejected

When the victim asked him to marry her, he started avoiding. Dejected over this, Vidyashri left a note apologising to her family and blaming Akshay. Based on the incident, the police arrested Akshay, who works as a gym instructor under abetment to suicide.

(Those having distress or suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahaya Vani on 104 for help)

Government of Karnataka
BELAGAVI INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
(Autonomous Medical Institution)
Dr. B R Ambedkar Road, Belagavi –590 001, E.Mail:belgaum.bims@gmail.com

No: BIMS/GNL/Tender/11/2023-24 Date: 28/ 07/2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Director, Belagavi Institute of Medical Sciences, Belagavi hereby invites tender under e-tendering (e-procurement) Services as per the K.T.P.P act 1999 and rules 2000 in two cover system.

Sl. No	Tender Notification	Description of Tender	Tender Value (Approximate) (Rs. In lakhs)
1	No:BIMS/GNL/Tender/Canteen/CR-35/2019-20 Date: 28 /07/2023	Tender for Providing of Canteen Services in premises of BIMS Hospital Belagavi	30 Lakhs
2	No:BIMS/GNL/Tender/Canteen/11/2023-24 Date: 28/07/2023	Tender for Providing of Canteen Services in premises of BIMS College Belagavi	9 Lakhs
3	No:BIMS/STP&ETP/GNL/Tender/CR-17/2023-24 Date: 28 /07/2023	Tender for operation and maintenance services of STP (Sewage Treatment Plant) and ETP (Effluent Treatment Plant)	60 Lakhs
4	No:BIMS/BIO-MED-Tender/CR-17/2023-24 Date: 28/07/2023	Tender for Biomedical Waste Treatment Service along with supply of Bio-degradable plastic bags.	55 Lakhs
5	No: BIMS/MEW/Veh-Condemn/Cr-37/2023-24 Date: 28/07/2023	Auction Of 04 Condemned Vehicles 1.Omani Bus 2.Tempo Traveler Ambulance (2) 3. Tata Mobile	7 Lakhs

The Tenderers Registered under e-procurement Portal can refer Government of Karnataka e-portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ and this office Website: https://bimsbelgaum.karnataka.gov.in to get data information about the tender & the amount to be paid towards EMD & Security Deposits or can contact the Director BIMS Belagavi Office in the Office working hours to get the information.

Tender inviting authority, Tender Accepting Authority has got authority to cancel any tender or all tenders without assigning any reason.

SD/-Chief Administrative Officer,
Belagavi Institute of Medical Sciences, Belagavi.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-213/KSMCA/2023-24

The Karnataka State Co-operative Marketing Federation Ltd.
Post Box No.130, No.8, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560 052.

No.Eng/ 69/2023-24 Date: 26 .07.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sealed item rate tenders in duplicate, will be received from the registered KPWD Contractors for the following works.

(1) Date of issue of Blank tender form **28.07.2023 to 05.08.2023 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** **(2)** Date of submission of Tenders **07.08.2023 up to 3:00 p.m.** **(3)** Date of opening of tender **07.08.2023 at 3.30 p.m.** onwards.

The Marketing Federation reserves the right of accepting or rejecting any of the Tender without assigning any reason. For other Tender conditions and further details, the Tenderer may contact the Executive Engineer during office hours at the above said address.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Amount put to Tender (in ₹.)	EMD for the work (in ₹.)	Cost of Tender form (in ₹.)	Time limit for completion of the work
1.	Construction of Toilet Block and other repair works in the Premises of KSCMF Ltd., PF Unit, Peenya.	3,79,153.00 +GST	9,500.00	Rs.500 +GST	45 days including monsoon
2.	Providing New Electrical connection at KSCMF Ltd., Bagalkote.	3,62,164.00 +GST	9,100.00	Rs.500 +GST	30 days including monsoon
3.	Strengthning of Basement Floor of Msb-I for Strong Room and other Repair Works to Guest House at KSCMF Ltd., Bangalore-52.	4,70,783.00 +GST	11,800.00	Rs.500 +GST	30 days including monsoon

Sd/-
General Manager

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಯವರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಅರಣ್ಯ ಭವನ ಅನೆಕ್ಸ್, 18ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡರಸ್ತೆ, ಮಲ್ಲೇಶ್ವರಂ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560 003
ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 080–23343464 ಇಮೇಲ್ : dcfurban82@yahoo.co.in

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಎ9/ಮರ ಕತ್ತಾವಣೆ/ಪಿ.ಆರ್–65/2023–24/1170 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25–07–2023.

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಸುತ್ತಮುತ್ತಲಿನ ಸಮಸ್ತ ನಾಗರಿಕರ ಗಮನಕ್ಕೆ ತರುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ, ಆನೇಕಲ್ ತಾ. ಇಗ್ಗಲೂರು ಗುಮ್ಮಳಾಪುರ ರಸ್ತೆಯ ಮರಸೂರು ಗೇಟ್‌ನಿಂದ ಆರ್.ಟಿ.ಓ. ಕಛೇರಿಯವರೆಗೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಸರಪಳಿ 29.25 ಕಿ.ಮೀ.ನಿಂದ 30.56 ಕಿ.ಮೀ ವರೆಗೆ ಎಡ ಮತ್ತು ಬಲ ಬದಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಗಲೀಕರಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಅಡ್ಡ ಬರುವ 74 ವಿವಿಧ ಜಾತಿಯ ಮರಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರವುಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಮನವಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ್ದು, ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತವೆ.

ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಆನೇಕಲ್ ತಾ. ಇಗ್ಗಲೂರು ಗುಮ್ಮಳಾಪುರ ರಸ್ತೆಯ ಮರಸೂರು ಗೇಟ್‌ನಿಂದ ಆರ್.ಟಿ.ಓ. ಕಛೇರಿಯವರೆಗೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಸರಪಳಿ 29.25 ಕಿ.ಮೀ.ನಿಂದ 30.56 ಕಿ.ಮೀ ವರೆಗೆ ಎಡ ಮತ್ತು ಬಲ ಬದಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಗಲೀಕರಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ.
ಪಬ್ಲಿಸ್ಸಿಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಮರ ತೆರವುಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಉದ್ದೇಶ	ಆನೇಕಲ್ ತಾ. ಇಗ್ಗಲೂರು ಗುಮ್ಮಳಾಪುರ ರಸ್ತೆಯ ಮರಸೂರು ಗೇಟ್‌ನಿಂದ ಆರ್.ಟಿ.ಓ. ಕಛೇರಿಯವರೆಗೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಸರಪಳಿ 29.25 ಕಿ.ಮೀ.ನಿಂದ 30.56 ಕಿ.ಮೀ ವರೆಗೆ ಎಡ ಮತ್ತು ಬಲ ಬದಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಗಲೀಕರಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ.
ಯೋಜನೆಯು ಬರುತ್ತಿರುವ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಜಿ.ಪಿ.ಎಸ್. ರೀಡಿಂಗ್ಸ್.	GPS details- G.P.S. Readings: Starting Point N-12°46'16.03" E-77°42'5.43"; Ending Point N-12°45'40.79" E-77°42'9.33"
ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಇರುವ ಮರಗಳು	74(Annex-1)
ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶಲ್ಲಿ ತೆರವುಗೊಳಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಮರಗಳು	74 (Annex-1)
	ಮರಗಳ ವಿವರ, ಜಾತಿ, ಮರಗಳಿರುವ ಜಾಗ, ನಕಾಶೆಗಳ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಅರಣ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಒದಗಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ (www.aranya.gov.com)
ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ವಿಧಾನ (ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರು ನೇರವಾಗಿ/ಇ–ಮೇಲ್/ಅಂಚೆ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಈ ಕೆಳಸಹಿದಾರರ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು)	ವಿಳಾಸ: ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅರಣ್ಯ ಭವನ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣ, 18ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮಲ್ಲೇಶ್ವರಂ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560003. ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ ವಿಳಾಸ– dcfurban82@yahoo.co.in
ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಅವಧಿ	ಈ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ 10 ದಿನಗಳೊಳಗಾಗಿ. **ಸೂಚನೆ: ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳು ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವಿತ ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿರಬೇಕು.**

ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿನ ಮರಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರವುಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೃಕ್ಷ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಕಾಯಿದೆ 1976 ಸೆಕ್ಷನ್ 8(3)(vii) ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಸಲಹೆ–ಸೂಚನೆಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡಲು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ,
ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/681/ಆಕಾರ್/2023–24 ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, JUL. 28
RISE 06:04 SET 18:48
RISE 14:30 SET 01:15

SATURDAY, JUL. 29
RISE 06:04 SET 18:48
RISE 15:33 SET 02:07

SUNDAY, JUL. 30
RISE 06:05 SET 18:47
RISE 16:37 SET 03:06

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	24
Mysuru	28	22
Bengaluru	26	19

Bengaluru Today
26°C The weather will be comfortable but humid. Short spell of light rain and thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C Rise in temperature. A comfortable but humid weather to prevail. Night will be pleasant. Dry weather to prevail

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THE HINDU
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Cyber frauds misuse Biocon CEO's photo to create WhatsApp group

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Parappana Agrahara police on Monday registered a case against an unknown person who misusing the profile of the Biocon CEO and MD created a WhatsApp group and sent messages to the staff to buy gift cards.

Suspcion arises

The incident came to light when one of the staff members identified as Srikant Patil, also received an email from a person posing as Shreehas Tambe.

Suspecting something fishy, Srikant brought it to the notice of the higher ups.

Inquiries revealed that the accused had used the name and profile picture of Mr. Tambe in his Display Picture (DP) to create WhatsApp group and was communicating with the company staff.

Inquiries revealed that the accused had used the name and profile picture of Mr. Tambe in his Display Picture to create WhatsApp group and was communicating with the company staff

Case registered

Based on the complaint, the police have registered a case against the unknown person charging him under IT Act and also under cheating and impersonation.

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Karnataka InFocus

THE HINDU

NUGGETS OF HISTORY

Introduced in India in 17th century

Tobacco is believed to have been introduced in India in the early part of the 17th century by the Portuguese. Initially grown in parts of Gujarat, tobacco cultivation soon spread to other parts of the country. Despite the social disapproval for its consumption, tobacco has not only thrived over the years, but also emerged as an important commercial crop.

Tobacco Board set up by Centre in 1976

Tobacco Board was constituted by the Government of India in the year 1976 under the Act of Parliament – Tobacco Board Act 1975 – for the overall development of tobacco industry. The Board's primary role is to facilitate smooth functioning of the vibrant farming system; ensure fair and remunerative prices to tobacco farmers and promotion of exports.

Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) in Karnataka

The FCV variety of tobacco introduced in Karnataka Light Soils spread across H. D. Kote, Periyapatna, Hunsur and K. R. Nagar taluks of Mysuru taluk, besides Arakalgud taluk of neighbouring Hassan district a couple of decades ago with the objective to produce export quality tobacco. About 80 per cent of the FCV tobacco grown in the region is exported.

History of beedi industry

The history of beedi industry began to grow in India in the late nineteenth century. According to a report on Tobacco Control in India, which has been supported by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, the oldest beedi manufacturing firm was established around 1887. And by 1930, the beedi industry had spread across the country.

Central Tobacco Research Institute

The Indian Central Tobacco Committee (ICTC) established the Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI) in 1947 to conduct research on different types of tobacco in India. CTRI was brought under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in 1965. CTRI now has a network of six regional research stations including one at Hunsur in Mysuru district.

Tobacco is bad for health, but cultivators won't shun the crop

Tobacco is a remunerative crop for thousands of farmers, particularly in Mysuru and parts of adjoining Hassan district

Laiqh A. Khan
MYSURU

Tobacco consumption - in the form of smoking or chewing - has been linked with multiple serious health issues. But cultivation of tobacco also happens to be the source of livelihood for thousands of farmers, particularly in Mysuru and parts of adjoining Hassan district.

The flue-cured Virginia (FCV) variety of tobacco cultivated in Karnataka Light Soil in the region enjoys a good international market not only for its blending quality, but also for the low nicotine and tar content. A controlled commercial crop, tobacco is cultivated by an estimated 40,000 registered growers on the basis of the crop size fixed by the Tobacco Board every year.

A jatha was taken out to mark the World No Tobacco Day in Mysuru.

The efforts by the Health and Family Welfare Department to reduce tobacco cultivation in keeping with India's commitment to the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) are yet to yield the expected results though some progress has been made in the direction.

Over the last seven years, the area under tobacco cultivation in Mysuru is believed to have come down from 80,000 hectares to around 65,000 hectares with farmers making a switch to other alternative crops, according to sources in the Department of Agriculture and Horticulture in Mysuru.

At cross purposes

But, tobacco continues to remain one of the highly remunerative crops in the region. Even as the Departments of Agriculture and Horticulture strive to create awareness among tobacco farmers about alternative crops, the Tobacco Board - another arm of the Government - supports tobacco farmers by not only ensuring the availability of loans, fertilizers, pesticides, saplings as well as a market through its 11 auction platforms in the State, most of them situated in Mysuru district.

Women segregating tobacco in Hunsur.

The Tobacco Board had fixed a crop size of 100 million kgs for Karnataka during 2022-23, but the yield was hit due to heavy rains last year, affecting 40 percent of the crop. Though only 60 million kgs were sold during the auction season last year, the average price commanded by tobacco last year was a handsome ₹228 per kg.

According to President of Federation of Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) Tobacco Growers' of Karnataka Javare Gowda, the tobacco crop will be affected for the second successive year due to weather conditions.

"While we lost 40 percent of the crop last year due to heavy rains, we will lose more than 20 percent this year due to late rains", he said. Though the crop size is 100 million kgs for 2023-24, the yield will be only around 80 million kgs, he predicted.

Yet, the farmers are expecting a good price like last year when a dip in yield led to an increase in demand and consequently pushed the prices up.

Apart from the good market for this commodity in domestic and international markets, the officials from Department of Agriculture and Horticulture point out that the scale of finance for tobacco farmers is higher than other crops. "While tobacco farmers are given loans upto ₹ 1.5 lahks to ₹2 lahks for every acre by both private and nationalized banks, the farmers growing ragi, paddy, and sugarcane receive no more than ₹25,000, ₹35,000 and ₹60,000 per acre respectively. Banks also extend loans easily to farmers for the purchase of tractors," pointed out an official from the Horticulture Department.

Some progress made

Yet, some progress has been made by convincing farmers to opt out of tobacco cultivation and take up crops like ginger, maize and vegetables.

A tobacco trader Ravandur Prakash recalled that the total output of tobacco from the region including the unauthorized produce was around 120 million kgs a couple of years ago.

The yield last year came down to just 60 million kgs, primarily due to vagaries of nature. But, the fact remains that a large number of growers are also facing labour problems. Tobacco cultivation is labour-intensive and the high cost of labour had also discouraged some growers to abandon tobacco, he said.

About five years ago, a number of farmers shifted to ginger from tobacco in different parts of Mysuru district. But, an unexpected crash in the prices of ginger during the 2020-21 season sparked a return to tobacco cultivation two to three years ago.

Also, many farmers, who cultivated ginger, were unable to continue with ginger on the same soil for atleast two to three years, as it was considered to be a nutrient-exhaustive crop.

Meanwhile, Anti-Tobacco Forum (ATF) convenor Vasanthkumar Mysoremath, who has been creating awareness about the ailments arising out of tobacco consumption including cancer and cardiovascular diseases, however, said the soil knows how to rejuvenate itself.

'Farmers being misled'

"Farmers are being misled that nothing can be grown on the soil once tobacco is grown. It has been proved false by the horticulture department", he claimed. Many farmers have successfully shifted from tobacco to papaya, rose, vegetables and other horticultural crops.

He said the farmers should be encouraged to shift away from tobacco crops in stages.

"First year, the farmers should shift to a non-tobacco crop on a portion of their land. The area under non-tobacco crops should be increased progressively every year," he said.

Agreeing that it was difficult to ban tobacco cultivation overnight, Mr. Mysoremath said the Government should also provide support to the farmers switching to alternative crops by extending easy loan facilities, subsidies and assurance of prices.

An experiment to switch from tobacco to sandalwood farming

Antardhwani has joined forces with agronomists, ecologists, medical practitioners, and other relevant experts

Laiqh A. Khan
MYSURU

At a time when efforts were underway to identify a suitable alternative crop for tobacco, which is linked to cancer and cardiovascular diseases among other ailments, Antardhwani, an independent think tank of HCG-Bharat Hospital and Institute of Oncology (BHIO), is steering a project under which tobacco farmers had switched to growing sandalwood.

In the tobacco-growing belt of Hunsur in Mysuru district, about 50 farmers, who were ready to pledge one acre of their land for the project, had been given 15,000 high-grade sandalwood saplings and over 8,000 saplings of lucrative seasonal fruits.

Antardhwani has joined forces with agronomists, ecologists, medical practitioners, and other relevant experts to guide decision-making. Though farmers were willing to switch, tobacco growers in Karnataka had not been able to do so in the absence of an economically viable alternative plan. And Antardhwani showed them the way, said oncologist and Executive Chairman of HCG-BHIO Dr. B .S Ajaikumar.

After the initiative, the farmers have informed that their health has also improved along with the revenue earned.

Dr. Ajaikumar said they have received positive feedback from the farmers involved in the project. Apart from the satisfaction over the revenue the initiative is generating for them, the farmers have informed them that their health has also improved. "It is showing on their faces with a marked reduction in the inflammation and redness otherwise seen on their faces," he said.

Now, the Antardhwani is looking to expand the project from the present 50 farmers to around 500 while the area will also increase correspondingly.

Seeking to explain why a cancer hospital was involved in fighting tobacco, Dr. Ajaikumar said he was tired of seeing cases of head and neck cancers, whose cause was identified to be consumption of tobacco. "The solution is to ban tobacco. But, if you can't ban it, you can at least reduce it," he said.

Statistics shared by Antardhwani, project a rosy future for tobacco farmers shifting to growing sandalwood. While one kg of Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco fetches the farmer anywhere between ₹150 to 250, one kg of sandalwood will yield anywhere between ₹25,000 to 30,000, depending on the quality and age of the tree.

Shifting to economically renewable alternative crops will be a win-win situation for the farmers. For, they will only help save the lakhs of lives that are lost every year in the country on account of tobacco consumption.

Man beaten to death

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Hosakote police have detained 10 truck drivers who allegedly beat up an unidentified man to death accusing him of stealing diesel from parked trucks at truck terminals on the outskirts of the city on Wednesday. The deceased along with two of his associates had reportedly came to steal fuel from parked trucks.The drivers managed to catch one of them and thrashed him.

APPOINTMENT

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank
इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD

(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Corporate Office: 254-260, Avvai Shanmugam Salai, Royapettah, Chennai-600014

ENGAGEMENT OF SPECIALISTS ON CONTRACTUAL BASIS FOR NON RESIDENT BUSINESS VERTICAL

Post Code	Post Name	Vacancy
1	Deputy Vice President - NR Products	1
2	Vice President - Training, Products & Regulatory Reporting	1
3	Assistant Vice President - Training, Products & Regulatory Reporting	1
4	Vice President - NR Business	1
5	Assistant Vice President - NR Business	1
6	Assistant Vice President - Remittance	1
	Total	**6**

Mode of application	Offline application as per the prescribed format uploaded in career page of Banks' website **www.indianbank.in**
Age	Maximum Age- as on 01/07/2023 Post Code (01-05) 63 years Post Code (06) 68 years
Application Fee	₹1000/- (Inclusive of taxes)
Last date of receipt of application	14.08.2023
Eligibility Criteria and Experience	Please visit career page of **www.indianbank.in** for full details

Place: Chennai — **Chief General Manager (CDO / CLO)**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20

E-Tender Notice No. CAMC_Exch_SBC_SMVB

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work

Item of work	Approx. Value
Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) for Tadiran Make Coral IPX-4000 at Bengaluru and IPX-500 at Baiyyappanahalli (SMVB) for 2 years in Bengaluru Division.	Rs. 14,41,622/-

Last date for submission of bids : **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 16-08-2023**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/ Bengaluru

PUB/264/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24

S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **K.SRINIVASACHARI, S/o.Late. Venkataramanachari,** R/at No:5/1, Thimma Shetty Lane, Narasimha Complex, Nagarthpet Cross, Bengaluru 560002, sworn to affidavit dated 24.07.2023 has filed a complaint to the Police Commissioner, Bengaluru City through E-Lost Portal U/S.155 Cr.P.C on 24.7.2023 Lost Report No.0655283/2023 for having lost of ORIGINAL RELEASE DEED of property Bearing No. Old No.75, New No. 1/2, situated at **Mallikarjunappa Lane, Sanjeevappa Lane, Avenue Road Cross, Bengaluru - 560002,** measuring East to West: 23+25/2 feet and North to South 11.75 feet, P.I.D.No.28-20-1/2 BBMP Ward No. 109, Chickpet, bounded on the **East by: Private Property, West by: Mallikarjunappa Lane, North by : Property of D. Narayanappa .M. Munidasappa and their sons, South by : Jnana Murthy's property,** registered as Document No.1879/1997-98, Book-I, Pages 126-130, Vol.4462, registered in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru has been lost/misplaced and the same is not traceable.

My client propose to sell the said property, any person/s having claim/objection may file the same with the undersigned within **7 days,** failing which my client shall proceed to complete the transaction.

A.G.PRAHALAD
Advocate,
No.12, 12th Cross, Bannappa Park Road, Cubbonpet, Bengaluru - 560002.
Mobile: 9845654795

KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION

NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO 03 Dated: 27 /07/2023

Tenders (Pre-qualification and or commercial offers) through e-procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. are invited for supply the following goods/services/ equipments:

Tender Nos as per E-portal	Nomenclature of Items/ Services/ Equipment	Tender Value in croress. (Approx)	Last date for submission of documents
KSRTC /2023-24/ SE0242	Engaging an agency for providing technical assistants to various divisions of KSRTC	13.72	28/08/2023
KSRTC/2023-24/ IND0028	Procurement of Automotive Grease	6.50	28/08/2023
KSRTC/2023-24/ IND0029	Procurement of Hydraulic Jacks with tommy bar	20.00	28/08/2023
KSRTC/2023-24/ IND0030	Procurement of Pneumatic Door Assembly	0.30	28/08/2023
KSRTC/2023-24/ IND0031	Procurement of brake linings & Clutch facings with rivets (Asbestos free)	20.00	28/08/2023
KSRTC/2023-24/ IND0032	Procurement of corrogated boxes and plastic cores for ETM Rolls	0.40	28/08/2023

Further any addendum / corrigendum in respect of change in calendar of events, specification, scope, other tender terms and conditions etc, will be uploaded/ published through e-portal only.

NOTE:- Interested suppliers need to register in the e-procurement portal. For further information log into http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. In case of further assistance, contact e-procurement cell (Phone. No. 080-2230960, 080–22234115). Interested suppliers may also contact e-procurement cell for training on bid submission. Mail to Support@eprochelpdesk.com for further information if required. In case of bidders need assistance from KSRTC, can communicate at cosp@ksrtc.org (contact: 7760990225, 7760990224).

DIPR/CP/692/AKAR/2023-24

Sd/- CONTROLLER OF STORES & PURCHASES
(Tender Inviting Authority)

G20 · Government of Karnataka · National Health Mission · National Viral Hepatitis Control Program · 75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Department of Health and Family Welfare

WORLD HEPATITIS DAY
28th July 2023

Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme is an integrated initiative for prevention and control of Viral Hepatitis A, B, C, D and E in the country which aims to end Viral Hepatitis by 2030.

Hon'ble Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Shri Dinesh Gundu Rao visited Government Hospital.

Prevention

- Awareness generation and behaviour change communication
- Immunisation for Hepatitis-B (Birth dose, Healthcare Workers, High Risk Group)
- Safe blood and blood products
- Injection safety, safe socio cultural practices
- Safe drinking water, hygiene and clean toilets

Facilities

- Free check-up and laboratory services for Hepatitis Disease in all Government Hospitals
- Free check-up, additional laboratory services and treatment at District Level Government Hospital / Government Medical Colleges

For more information, contact your nearest Health Care Center.

"To protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife, and to have compassion for living creatures." - is the fundamental duty of every Citizen of our Country, enshrined in the Constitution.

Your Health, Our Responsibility.

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(BELLARY THERMAL POWER STATION)

CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

No. KPCL/2023-24/PS/WORK_INDENT73/CALL-2 Date: 26.07.2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Through e-Procurement Portal only)

KPCL invites bids from qualified agencies through e-tender platform through two cover system for the the work of **Carrying out round the clock monitoring, preventive & breakdown maintenance of chiller, low side equipments, air washer ventilation system and comprehensive maintenance of Split Ac's, Window Ac's, Ductable AC's, Packaged AC's from 1TR to 15TR installed in Unit- 1, 2 & 3 at BTPS.** The intending bidder can download the tender document from e-procurement website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Further details can be had from the **Executive Engineer (CAM-1),** BTPS, KPCL, Kudithini-583152, Bellary Dist. Mobile: 94482 90572. E-mail: eecambtps@gmail.com

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number **1800 102 1878**
Or write to us at **customercare@thehindu.co.in**
Scan the QR code to register your feedback

THE HINDU · businessline · FRONTLINE · SPORTSTAR · The Hindu Young World · THE HINDU

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that my Client Mr.RAFI MOHAMED S/o.Mr.N.K.Mohamed Shafi. has lost the original Gift Deed dt 21-11-2012 registered as Doc No.SHV-1-01844-2012-13 Stored in CD No.SHVD 157 in the office of the Sub-Registrar Shivajinagar Bangalore relating to the below mentioned schedule property and its been lost in transits, Any person/s or body of Persons, Banks, Financial Institutions, NBFC's Etc., having any objection/s or claims, shall with documentary evidence lodge their objection/claims within **15 days** from the date of this notice with the undersigned, failing which, my client shall proceed with the above mentioned transaction.

SCHEDULE

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF IMMOVABLE COMMERCIAL property being the Entire Floor comprising of Units bearing **No.101, No.102, No.103 and No.104,** (Municipal No.128/1-1 Airport Road, Kodihalli, Bangalore, in BBMP Ward No. 73,) PID No.73-1-128/1-1, all situated on the First Floor of the Commercial Complex known as **"GOLDEN TOWER"** constructed on the Schedule 'A' Property having a total super built area of **9439 Sq. ft.,** (which is inclusive of a proportionate share in the common areas, balconies, passages, lobbies, staircases and other areas of common use etc.) with Eight car parking spaces in the Basement Floor of 125 sq. Ft. totally measuring to 1000 sq.ft with mosaic flooring together with 3356.28 sq ft of Undivided Land Share and proportionate share in all common areas and entitled to all the common amenities and Benefits and bounded on the East by Private Property West by Golden Enclave North by Front Block of Golden Towers and Airport and South by Defence Property;

S.B.ABDUR RAHMAN Advocate,
1 st Floor, M M Complex-1,No.60 Chickbazaar Road,
Tasker Town, Bangalore-51. Off : 4148 0443 Mob-98450 83304
Bangalore Dated:28.07.2023

SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

NETAJI SUBHAS SOUTHERN CENTRE, BENGALURU

No. SAI/NSSC/PERS/CF 478A/ 2023 Date: 26/07/2023

CORRIGENDUM

1. Reference to advertisement dated 6/7/2023, the last date to submit the applications for Empanelment of Advocates has been further extended up to 03/08/2023.
2. Point No.1 (3) may be read as "The applicant should have well established office in Bangalore".
3. Point No.22 may be read as The online application should be sent through email to jobs.saibangalore@gmail.com super scribing "Application for empanelment of Legal Counsel in SAI"
4. Point No.23 may be read as The application should be sent to email: jobs.saibangalore@gmail.com
5. SAI reserves all the rights to withdraw this advertisement at any time without assigning any reason. For any recruitment related query, e-mail to rcbengaluru.sai@gov.in and jobs.saibangalore@gmail.com.

Regional Director
SAI NSSC Bengaluru

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE,
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION, Construction & Maintenance Group

ISRO -TELEMETRY TRACKING & COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC) Plot No.12 & 13, 3rd Main, 2nd Phase, Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-560 058, Fax: 080-28094180, Ph:080-28094184, 4196, 4541, 4542

BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of President of India, **Item rate E-Tenders** are invited from Contractors of appropriate class for the following work .

NIT No.	**ISTRAC/CMG/MAINT/C/E-TENDER-30/2023-24/ Dated: 27.07.2023**	**ISTRAC/CMG/MAINT/C/E-TENDER-31/2023-24/ Dated: 27.07.2023**
Name of work	**Annual Service Contract for Operation and Maintenance of Civil & PH Systems for DOS Housing Colony Anthariksha Apartment, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru.**	**Annual Service Contract for providing Security Services to Parking area of SCC Campus, ISTRAC and DOS Housing Colonies at Jalahalli, RPC Layout & Anthariksha Apartment, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru.**
Estimated Cost put to Tender	**Rs. 7.07 Lakhs**	**Rs. 69.54 Lakhs**
Tender Document Details	**E-Tender**	**E-Tender**
Period of completion	**12 Months (department reserves the right to extend the contract for a further period of 24 months)**	**12 Months (department reserves the right to extend the contract for a further period of 24 months)**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**28.07.2023 to 07.08.2023**	**28.07.2023 to 18.08.2023**
Bid Clarification	**28.07.2023 to 08.08.2023**	**28.07.2023 to 19.08.2023**
Last date of reply to Bid Clarifications	**Upto 16.30 hrs on 09.08.2023**	**Upto 16.30 hrs on 21.08.2023**
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	**Upto 14.30 hrs on 10.08.2023**	**Upto 14.30 hrs on 22.08.2023**
Due date and time of opening of tenders.	**11:30 Hrs onwards on 11.08.2023**	**11:30 Hrs onwards 23.08.2023**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 14,140/-**	**Rs. 1.39Lakhs**

Interested tenderers may please refer **Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)** for eligibility criteria and other details from website **www.isro.gov.in**

Sd/- Group Head, CMG

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Solar energy capacity achieved by India against the target

70.1 in gigawatts. Another 55.60 GW is under construction, according to the government. In 2022-23, The solar energy-based generation was 1,02,014.24 MU (million units), total power generation of 16,24,465.10 MU in the country, including power imported from Bhutan. PTI

Ethiopia to receive grant and loan from World bank

400 in $ million. As stated by the country's finance ministry, Ethiopia will get $350 million as a grant and $50 million as a loan. Ethiopia has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, a two-year war, droughts, floods and locust invasions. REUTERS

Semi-green forests destroyed in fires in Goa this year

480 In hectares. This includes 365 hectares of moist, deciduous and semi-green forests. The State was preparing a plan to tackle fires, including appointing trackers to work with forest guards in areas prone to such incidents, Goa Minister Vishwajit Rane told. PTI

Share of electricity to be met by India from thermal power plants

76 in percentage. This is out of 1,750 billion units in the fiscal year 2023-24 from thermal power plants, government told parliament on Thursday. The electricity will be generated from thermal power plants with an average plant load factor (PLF or capacity utilisation) of 66.90%. PTI

China's loan to Pakistan for the next two fiscal years

2.4 In $ billion. Chinese EXIM Bank has rolled over for 2 years principal amounts due, FY2023-24: $1.2 billion FY2024-25: $ 1.2 billion, said Pakistan Finance Minister. This was in addition to $5 billion in loans from China in the last three months. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The anatomy of the Yamuna floodplains

How has rampant construction blocked flood pathways and impeded the river's 'right to expand'? Why are Yamuna floodplains important? What are the consequences of rapid urbanisation on the floodplains? How many people are dependent on the river? What do encroachments do?

EXPLAINER

Saumya Kalia

The Taj Mahal is seen on the banks of the swollen Yamuna river after heavy monsoon rainfall, in Agra on Wednesday. PTI

THE GIST

- Battered by heavy rains, the Yamuna looks slow, sluggish, swollen. Last week, the water levels hit a 60-year-high, gushing through elite neighbourhoods built close to the floodplains, including Civil Lines, Rajghat and the Supreme Court.
- Causes, experts argue, can be traced to haphazard construction activities, urbanisation, lack of proper housing and lax regulations — all of which have besieged the floodplains.
- The Yamuna floodplain was designated as a protected area free from construction in the Delhi Masterplan of 1962. The Central Ground Water Authority in 2000 also notified the floodplains as 'protected' for groundwater management.

The story so far: Battered by heavy rains, the Yamuna looks slow, sluggish and swollen. Last week, the water levels hit a 60-year-high, gushing through elite neighbourhoods built close to the floodplains. Waters advanced towards the Taj Mahal for the first time in half a century. More than 25,500 people were evacuated and ferried to rescue camps in a brown stream of waste; many of them lived in make-shift low-lying slum dwellings next to the river.

Why is the Yamuna important?

The late environmentalist Anupam Mishra once called Yamuna, Delhi's "real town planner": it meandered through Delhi ensuring the city was never short of water and never ravaged by famine or flood. Delhi was "well-planned along the course of the river Yamuna, but it isn't so anymore," he said. Causes, experts argue, can be traced to haphazard construction activities, rapid urbanisation, lack of proper housing and lax regulations – all of which have besieged the floodplains.

"We talk about rivers in isolation, but floodplains are inseparable from the river channel," says Venkatesh Dutta, a professor at the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University. The river system includes both water and land. Yamuna is a lifeline to five States, and its floodplains are a charging point.

Yamuna courses east of Delhi, entering the city from Palla village and exiting at the Okhla barrage. The floodplains are two km wide on each side. The floodplain along Yamuna's 22 km run in Delhi, designated as the O zone by the Delhi Development Authority, has an area of approximately 9,700 hectares – the size of 1,500 new Parliament buildings.

Between Palla and Okhla, the composition of the floodplains changes from farmlands to slums, colonies, flyovers and bridges. It is also dotted with permanent structures like Ring Road, Akshardham Temple complex, Commonwealth Games Village, Player's Building (housing the Delhi Secretariat) and the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium.

What is submerged now was once part of the river's natural flow, Dr. Dutta explains. A river has the "right to expand" and needs to breathe through its flood plains. Any attempt to concretise constricts its air supply. "This is happening not only in Delhi, but all major cities including Pune, Lucknow, Mumbai," he said.

As part of river systems, floodplains slow water runoff during floods, recharge groundwater and store excess water, replenishing the city's water supply. "When you have sluggish flow, the surplus water stored in the floodplain is released back during the non-monsoon season," Dr. Dutta explains. "If you lose the floodplain, you also lose the storage of water." Delhi recorded similarly devastating floods in 1978, 1988 and 1995 which inundated floodplains, adversely impacting their health.

Who lives on these floodplains?

A 2022 report found there are 56 bastis (one basti has 15 or more houses), with 9,350 households and 46,750 people. Almost half of the households (4,835) practise farming as a livelihood; others rely on daily wage work, fishing, nurseries, and animal herding.

Most residents migrated from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Rajasthan; some bastis have existed for eight decades and others were built more recently. Farmers near Palla and Hiranki villages traditionally grow rice, wheat, and flowers on the rich silt deposited by the river.

"Zone O supports a large variety of nature-based livelihoods with a low ecological footprint. Yet, these are being forcibly evicted in the name of ecological rejuvenation of the region," the report noted. The farmland size has reduced from 4,850 hectares in 2000 to 3,330 hectares in 2020, as people were evicted, and livelihood shifted to daily wage work.

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) in 2016 imposed a blanket ban on agriculture-related activities till the "Yamuna is restored and made pollution free".

On the NGT's orders, the DDA in 2021 evicted 800 families in the Muslim-dominated Batla House area, a part of the floodplains that falls under no-construction zones. Private contractors built flats and sold to people, mostly daily wage and domestic workers, who cannot afford housing in other areas.

How did settlements emerge?

The first major non-agriculture settlements appeared after Independence when refugees from Western Punjab fled to Delhi. They built kuccha houses on the floodplains along the Yamuna Pushta (from the ITO bridge and up to Salimgarh Fort). The planning era propelled urbanisation in the 1950s and '60s, witnessing the construction of the first thermal power plant (employing people as labourers to unload coal from trains and clear fly ash), the Ring Road and Rajghat Samadhi.

Over 180,000 jhuggis on the Yamuna Pushta were demolished during the 1975 Emergency, and people were resettled in the peripheries.

The 1982 Asian Games brought more than one million migrant labourers from neighbouring States, tasked with building flyovers, sports facilities and luxury apartments. Little to no formal housing was provided; workers eventually settled on the open plain along the western embankment after the Games. By 2004, almost 3,50,000 people lived along the Yamuna, according to estimates. They earned livelihoods as domestic help, rickshaw pullers, porters, mechanics, small vendors, factory workers in nearby trade markets such as Chandni Chowk and Sadar Bazaar. The population boom outpaced Delhi's ability to build a proper sewage network and spiked Yamuna's pollution, Manu Bhatnagar of the Natural Heritage Division of Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage told *The Hindu* in an earlier interview.

The Delhi High Court in 2004 ordered eviction of "unauthorised" settlements on the floodplains, demolishing shanties and evicting more than two lakh people.

"Their subsequent eviction on the charge of pollution cleared the way for the construction of capital-intensive projects of urban infrastructure and elite consumption," sociologist Amita Baviskar wrote in a paper. Large portions along the floodplains were used for projects – Delhi's largest depot for its public bus service, Akshardham Temple complex, Commonwealth Games Village, metro depots, luxury apartments, and highways.

Moreover, Dr. Dutta says, "in the name of flood protection," cities use embankments which "jacket the river, limiting the river's ability to spread."

What does Delhi's Master Plan outline?

The Yamuna floodplain was designated as a protected area free from construction in the Delhi Masterplan of 1962. The Central Ground Water Authority in 2000 also notified the floodplains as 'protected' for groundwater management.

The draft Master Plan For Delhi 2041 divides Delhi into 18 zonal areas, designating Yamuna's floodplains as 'Zone O', delineated in two parts: river zone (active floodplain) and riverfront (regulated construction is allowed). The latter is where structures such as Akshardham Temple and Commonwealth Village have been built.

The South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People (SANDRP) in 2020 found large parts of the Yamuna floodplains and riverbed were "grossly abused" due to lax implementation: 23 bridges including rail, road, metro and barrages have been built; there was a bridge at every 800m. "The creation of new embankments, guide bunds... are fragmenting the floodplain, promoting encroachments, and also leaving a trail of construction and demolition debris into riverbed and floodplains," the group wrote.

An Expert Committee in 2012 formed to examine DDA's Riverfront Development Scheme warned against any construction on floodplains. The areas proposed under the Yamuna Riverfront Development (YRDF) plan – which proposes biodiversity parks and 'recreational' activities – were within the active floodplain, which could affect the topography, increase pollution and affect flood-carrying capacity, the Committee warned.

"If you build on areas reserved for recharge, you lose groundwater," says Dr. Dutta. The layers of sediments of floodplains create aquifers contributing to the river channel, which in turn rejuvenates the groundwater. But encroachments stop this two-way exchange.

The river is unable to transport flood waters downstream during monsoons, wet the lands or deposit soil along its banks to preserve the riverine ecosystem.

What do encroachments do?

Floodplains also protect against devastating flash floods by allowing excess water to spread out and storing that surplus.

However, encroachments restrict the river to a small channel. Any intense rainfall activity (India received 26% more rainfall in July than expected) swells the river, expanding in height not in width, eventually spilling over with devastating intensity. Climate change has intensified rains in frequency and severity, and seen in the Yamuna floods, runoff water comes as a huge gushing flow in a small span of time.

Dr. Dutta notes that "floods are inseparable from the hydrological cycle and are required for sediment transport, cleaning the riverbed, rejuvenating the river itself."

"The concept of floodplain zoning is not mainstreamed in the Master Plan," he adds, and authorities haven't yet "taken cognisance of the river's right to expand." This gap, along with poorly implemented policies, frees up river land for private and public real estate. "The common property land – the river's land – is open to auction and revenue generation. It's a tragedy of commons because the river's land has not been properly defined."

A model draft Bill for defining floodplains and zoning was circulated in 1975. Only four States have drafted a National Floodplains Zoning Policy so far.

It is "reductive" to locate floodplains as a site of conflict between development and nature, says Dr. Dutta. Instead, action can be focused on creating climate-resilient infrastructures, de-silting drains, creating green areas and improving drainage systems. "You cannot police a river," he says.

The site where the last rites of Soujanya were performed at Pangala in Dharmasthala. (Below) Maternal uncle Vittal Gowda points to the place where the body of his niece was found in Dharmasthala. MANJUNATH H.S.

Eleven years and many probes later, no trace of this teen's killer

Seventeen-year-old Soujanya was raped and killed in Dharmasthala in 2012, creating shockwaves in the famous temple town and the entire coastal belt of Karnataka. The lone accused in the case was recently acquitted, and the family of the girl struggles with no sense of closure to their traumatic loss.

Shreyas H.S. meets the family and looks at how the investigation was botched up at various stages.

On a day of incessant rains, not unusual in coastal Karnataka, Kusumavathi points to a tree in the backyard of her house where her daughter Soujanya was laid to rest 11 years ago. "The sapling we planted at the place we buried her has grown into a tree, giving so much shade. While nature has done its bit, investigating agencies have failed us," says the mother who lost her teenage daughter to a crime she cannot reconcile with.

In Dharmasthala, a famous pilgrim centre at the foothills of the Western Ghats that draws lakhs every day, the mother of Soujanya, who was 17 when she was raped and murdered in 2012, still awaits justice. As the case was botched up at the inception of the investigation by the local police and a doctor who performed the autopsy, the hope for justice anytime in future is thin.

After 11 years of investigations by multiple agencies, a Criminal Bureau of Investigation (CBI) special court recently acquitted the lone accused, Santhosh Rao. The court categorically stated while pronouncing the verdict on June 16, 2023, that there is no evidence against Santhosh.

The case was first probed by local police before it was taken up by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in 2013. It was later handed over to the CBI in the same year after a massive public outcry in the entire Coastal Karnataka region. But eventually no one has been convicted in the case.

Kusumavathi now has one question that keeps haunting her, and she poses it to any reporter who meets her, "Who then raped and killed my daughter?"

> The sapling we planted at the place we buried her has grown into a tree, giving so much shade. While nature has done its bit, investigating agencies have failed us.
>
> **KUSUMAVATHI**
> mother

The road connecting Ujire and Dharmasthala from where Soujanya is said to have gone missing. MANJUNATH H.S.

Long search with a tragic end

It was around 7 p.m. on October 9, 2012, that the family members of Soujanya, accompanied by a group of worried locals, began a frantic search for the pre-university student. It was yet another day of heavy rains, and they believed that she had gone missing while returning from college.

Soujanya, studying at Sri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara College in Ujire, had alighted from a government bus near the Netravati river bank between 4 p.m. and 4.15 p.m., about 3 km from her residence. Multiple witnesses had confirmed the same, including her maternal uncle Vittal Gowda who ran a hotel at that time near the river bank where lakhs of pilgrims take a holy dip every day. The girl cheerfully waved to his uncle after getting off the bus, according to the statement records attached to the CBI chargesheet.

Kusumavathi phoned her friends when Soujanya did not arrive home and later alerted her husband and other family members, following which the frantic search began. Soujanya's father filed a missing complaint around 10.30 p.m. at the local police station.

As there was no police station in Dharmasthala, despite the population of the area being more than 9,000 and lakhs of people visiting the holy place every day, the father filed a complaint at Belthangady police station, located about 12 km from his residence. It is only after this rape case that the State government set up a police station, under intense public pressure. Until then there was only a makeshift police outpost.

It was the next morning that the family and police found the teenager's body, with clothes torn and undergarments missing, inside a jungle located across a gushing stream in front of Sri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara Yoga and Nature Cure Hospital at Mannasanka. The news spread, setting off a massive uproar in Belthangady taluk.

The suspect appears

A day after the body of Soujanya was found in the woods, a suspect was brought into the picture. Santhosh was caught by Mallik Jain, Ashrith Jain, Ravi Poojary, Shivappa Malekudiya, and Gopalkrishna Gowda, all working under Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara Temple Trust run by D. Veerendra Heggade.

He was picked up from the Bahubali entry point near Manjunatheshwara shrine while he was sitting there at around 7 p.m. Santhosh, who hails from Karkala in Udupi district, was working in a hotel at Sringeri in Chikkanagakuru district. While his father was a retired government teacher, his mother was a retired Public Works Department employee.

According to his advocate, Santhosh, who used to visit the shrine regularly, had arrived at Dharmasthala only on October 11, 2012, and he had a bus ticket which was, however, not produced by the local police. Santhosh, who is now acquitted, was handed over to the police late at night on the day he was caught, but not before being beaten up badly by the public.

Gaping holes in initial probe

The 50th Additional City and Sessions Judge, Children's Court, while passing the verdict on June 16 this year, 11 years after the incident, made scathing comments on how the investigation was botched up at the very start. "The investigation was not properly conducted in the golden hour. The doctor (who also did the autopsy) who collected the vaginal swab virtually demolished the entire case of the prosecution at the inception."

The court further said, "This is a fit case to place before the acquittal committee for initiating needful action against the erring officials." The local police, CID and eventually CBI probed the case to charge Santhosh with rape and murder, although there was no evidence to prove the charges, the court observed.

Documents reveal that the CBI failed to look into gaps in the statements of Mallik Jain, Poojary and Gowda. While Mallik Jain gave his statement to the CBI on Aug 8, 2014, Poojary and Gowda's statements were recorded by local police on October 12, 2012.

Basic discrepancies in their statements had been overlooked. For instance, while Mallik Jain stated that Santhosh was sitting in the dark at 7 p.m. on October 11, 2012, when they were returning home from Bahubali hillock, Poojary and Gowda stated that he was hiding from them. Mallik Jain, nowhere in his statement, talked about Santosh telling them, "I have not done anything; please leave me", but the other two stated this to the local police. Further, Mallik Jain said that at the time of locals handing him over to the police, there were no personnel attached to the police outpost, and those who took the suspect belonged to the anti-Naxal squad. Not a word of the anti-Naxal squad was mentioned by the other two.

The Belthangady police also told the CBI in their statement that no anti-Naxal squad was deployed at that time in the area. In fact, the local police had not recorded the statement of Mallik Jain, which was done by the CBI at a later stage.

More importantly, of the three whose statements were recorded, two died in 2013 and 2014. The CBI, however, did not inquire into the alleged suicide of Poojary on April 8, 2013, barely six months after his statement was recorded.

The CBI has also not met the family members of Gowda, who reportedly died in 2014. Soujanya's uncle Vittal Gowda, talking to *The Hindu*, said, "The deceased witnesses knew many things, and I strongly suspect they were murders. Despite urging the CBI to probe the same, nothing was done. In 2017, L. Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge B.S. Rekha also asked the CBI why the agency did not probe Poojary' unnatural death."

The 50th Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge pointed at these lapses. The judge had directed the CBI to summon the trio for enquiry. However, they secured a stay from the Karnataka High Court in 2015. The High Court also quashed further investigation ordered by the sessions judge.

Evidence botched up

The local police, who first began the investigation, failed to recover the black umbrella and undergarments of the victim. Kusumavathi says that the police came to her house and collected an undergarment of her daughter and showed it as recovered material.

Court documents show that the clothes of the victim were not stained with mud, and the bag and books were not wet despite all the witnesses stating that there was heavy rain on the day of the incident. The court had observed in 2017 that much evidence showed that the crime was not committed at that particular spot, hinting that the body was placed after committing the crime. Vittal Gowda said he and others on the day of the disappearance even searched the area where her body was found the next day.

The local police also did not recover surveillance camera footage from where the accused was picked up by Mallik and others, despite CCTV being operational at the time of the incident. Other crucial pieces of evidence, too, appear to have been ignored.

For instance, hair found in the *punche* recovered from Santhosh and recorded as item no 18 for the DNA profile stated it as belonging to two different individuals of male sex. Also, a DNA expert, Dr. Vinod J. Lakkappa, who is prosecution witness 18, said no blood samples of the accused were found in the nail clippings of the deceased rape victim. This means his injuries were only caused by public beating and not by the young victim of rape and murder.

The final opinion of Forensic Science Laboratory, Bengaluru, said, "Soil found adhering to the clothes, soil found in the vaginal swab of victim and sample soil from the crime scene are similar. The soil was not found on the clothes of the accused." Also, to destroy evidence, the private part of the girl was filled with mud, the CBI court observed. Vittal Gowda said much was done to "fix" Santhosh.

The court was scathing in its comments on how the autopsy was botched up. "Dr. Adam, who conducted the autopsy, did not collect the viscera from the body, and he has not properly collected the vaginal swab, which made the DNA expert not carry out a proper investigation."

The court also observed, based on the evidence, that the crime has the involvement of more than one person, and a single person cannot place the body at the spot located across a stream that was in full spate. The local police had claimed that the accused had set up a hut at the scene of the crime, but the same was not included at the time of the spot inquest, and locals who found the body also did not see any hut.

Also, curiously, forensic expert Dr. Rupali, who conducted a forensic psychological assessment report of the accused, "travelled back in time" to prepare a report. While CBI presented salient features of the case to Dr. Rupali on March 26, 2015, for the requirement of a psychological assessment report, the report attached in the chargesheet shows that she had already prepared the report on March 15, 2015. The conclusion of this report said, "On the basis of forensic psychological assessment and behavioural analysis interview it has been inferred that Santosh Rao appears deceptive in his statements. And also, he appears to have involvement in the rape and murder of Soujanya."

Questions unanswered

Soujanya's family has been raising questions on why police and authorities at so many levels went out of their way to protect whoever were the real culprits in the case. They have been pointing fingers at the powerful relatives and associates of Mr. Heggade. However, multiple agencies have given a clean chit to Heggade and his younger brother' son Nishchal Jain, at whom the family had pointed fingers. The evidence presented by Mr. Heggade showed that Nishchal was not present in the country when this incident occurred.

Mallik Jain, talking to *The Hindu*, reiterated, "We were subjected to brain mapping, polygraph test, and DNA tests by the CID and the CBI, and they could not find any evidence to link me, Dhiraj and Uday, to the case." He said some locals with mala fide intentions are targeting Heggade and those associated with him. To a question on inconsistencies in the statement of his and Ravi Poojary, he said "You should ask Poojary and CBI and not me."

At the end of 11 long years of waiting, there is no answer to Kusumavathi's question: "Who then raped and killed my daughter?"

IN THE LIMELIGHT

A still from the Netflix series '*Kohrra*'.PTI

Kohrra: Navigating the turmoil of love and family in a crime drama

This gripping Netflix series blends crime and emotion by poignantly exploring family relationships and unfulfilled love; it illuminates the shadows of desires and human frailties

Harish S. Wankhede

Love is pain' says the lead protagonist in the acclaimed web series on Netflix, *Kohrra* directed by Randeep Jha. At the outset, the series pretends to be a crime-investigation drama that revolves around a murder case, situated in a small town of Punjab. However, the viewers soon witness the magic of storytelling-weaving together the threads of love, desire, and family ties. While the mystery around the murder is resolved after a deep and hazardous investigation process, the trauma and tragedies produced by love remain to haunt the characters.

Earlier, series like *Paatallok* and *Delhi Crime* explored crimes while showcasing the gritty and emotional side of the police officers and their alibis. Though *Kohrra* adopts a similar track, its focus is divided. The story, while engaging the audience in crime and investigation, parallelly opens new windows to showcase the uncouth sides of human nature, responsible for making life corrupt, precarious and terrible. Beyond the investigation, *Kohrra* fearlessly examines the unsettling impact of everyday vices and societal biases on the human condition.

Kohrra is a deep story of emotional bonds and the quest to find love. The leading protagonist Balbir Singh (Suvinder Vicky) is an about-to-retire police officer who looks after his married but separated daughter and her school-going son. His assistant Amarpal (Barun Sobti) is a young policeman who is having an affair with his sister-in-law but is also desperate to start his own family. These two emotionally crippled officers are entrusted with solving a murder case and finding a missing person. The journey takes them into the dark alleys of human affairs only to reveal various obstacles and diversions that one has to cross to discover truths of banal life.

The director's efforts in crafting the crime's backdrop are evident throughout the series. We see that Paul (Vishal Handa), the murdered person, is an NRI from Punjab and has come to his hometown with his British friend Liam (Ivantiy Novak) for his marriage ceremony. The bride however had an affair with a rapper and her heartbroken lover is unhappy with her decision. On the other side, Paul's uncle (Varun Badola) is a struggling businessman and his son is jealous of Paul. These people have motives to kill Paul and in the initial investigation, the police charge them with the crime only to understand their mistake later. In the end, we witness a heart-breaking revelation about queer love and the tragedies it encompasses.

Kohrra, the mist, is a metaphor here to suggest that our vision to detect the truth is obscured by nature itself. We are condemned to operate with fear, jealousy and distrust hindering the possibility to build human affairs on freedom, fairness and love. The characters here are mostly innocent and powerless, yet their desires, lust and infatuations lead them to fall into sinful traps, building an unending circle of sadness and guilt. The lead character, Balbir Singh is distressed because of his daughter's decision to separate from her husband and to date her ex-lover. His patriarchal values disallow him to understand from the heart of his own daughter and makes their own relationship utterly traumatic.

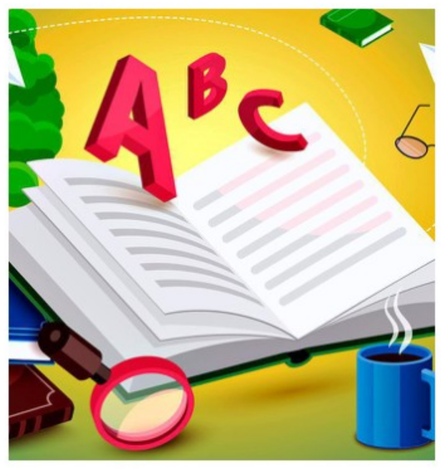
The male-female binary of love relationships also allows the man to take charge, relegating the woman to a powerless position. *Kohrra* shows the precarious and marginalised position of women in human affairs. The female characters are mostly meek, unable to quench their emotional desires and lack control over situations. Interestingly, their male counterparts appear strong and free but they too are burdened with social and institutional rules, creating a hellish condition. The background story of Paul and his bride illustrates how gender-performative roles perpetually give rise to distress and tragedy.

Showcasing characters with vivid emotional layers is not a groomed practice in Indian dramas. Balbir Singh's character in this case is the most well-crafted piece in the story. He is old, professionally unsuccessful and ridden with guilt and failures. However, his longing for care, trust and love makes him a good soul. The actor, Survinder Vicky, performs the role with remarkable sensitivity and firmness and showcases the emotional traits of the character very well. We see in the climax that behind Balbir Singh's despicable patriarchal attitude lies a lovable and genuine heart, allowing the story to end on a heartwarming note.

On the critical side, the story is overtly dark and depressing. It ruptures the popular fiction about Punjab's prosperity, the myth about its always-happy people and the fascination with the Punjabi NRI diaspora (often fashioned in mainstream Bollywood flicks). Instead, here we witness the abject poverty, crimes and drug abuse, domination of social elites and the failure of state institutions to protect the innocents. Alongside, the jealous and fearful nature of humans, the coercive social rules that control our sexuality and freedom force the inhabitant to survive under tragic and sinful experiences.

Kohraa is a must-watch social drama and crime mystery. The story begins with a murder and police investigation, it hardly remains the leading attribute of the drama. It is a slow burn that unravels the bitter bonds of our family and social drama without being too preachy. It pushes the audience into the narrow alleys of human affairs to see the darker side of our unquenched emotions and raw desires. It offers a moral outlook at the end, suggesting how to escape from such a man-made dungeon. By divorcing the power to dominate others and by allowing space to trust and freedom, a cordial and fair social order can be established. *Kohrra* is a brave story.

(Harish S. Wankhede is Assistant Professor, Centre for Political Studies, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi)



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Sir, several readers would like to know whether 'advices' is the plural of 'advice'."

"'Advice' means' opinion about what to do, how to behave'. 'Advice' is not a countable noun. So you don't say 'He gave him an advice' or 'He gave him advices'. You say 'He gave him advice'. I gave him sortie advice or what to read and how. If you want to refer to 'art opinion about what to do', you say 'a piece of advice'. He gave me a piece of advice.! Gave him a piece of advice on this. 'Advices' is used in business to refer to 'a letter, note or other report, especially in front of another place giving information about delivery of goods'. We haven't received advices from our head office."

"Sir, Mrs. Sunanda, wants to know the difference between 'amiable;' and 'amicable'."

"Both are from the Latin word amicus, friend! Amiable' is used with people and it means friendly, kind-hearted, easy and pleasant to talk to'. He is an amiable person. It was an amiable gathering. She is most charming and amiable. He has always an amiable smile, I don't know how he manages it.

'Amicable' refers to attitudes and , relationships or decisions. It means 'done in a friendly way' . It was an amicable settlement. They had their differences, but they finally parted amicably. But for him, the dispute wouldn't have been settled amicably. The first 'a' in 'amiable' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'naked', 'made'; the V is pronounced like the 'y' in 'yes'; the second 'a' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'China': 'ble' is pronounced like the 'ble' in 'noble', 'fable', the first 'a' in 'amicable' is - pronounced like the 'a' in 'man'; the I is pronounced like the I in 'bit', the second 'a' as in 'China', 'ble' as in 'noble' and 'c' as in 'cat'. The stress is on the first syllable in both words."

"Sir, Mr, A. K. G. Nair, wants to know which of the two is correct: (a) out of question (b) out of the question."

"'Out of the question' is correct. When you say that something is out of the question, you mean that it is 'too impracticable to be worth discussing'. My participation in the meeting is out of the question. I am not going to come out in this weather, it is out of the question. Let me explain certain other expressions with 'question' in them. 'Beyond all question' means 'undoubtedly, certainly'. His honesty is beyond all question. Please note it is 'beyond all question' and not beyond all questions'. 'In question' means 'what we are referring to or discussing'. The matter in question was discussed test month in the Assembly. Where is the book in question? 'That is not the question' means 'that is irrelevant'. 'It is a question of time' or 'It is merely a question of time' means it will certainly come sooner or later'. He is bound to get his promotion, it's a question of time.

'To call something into question' is 'to express one's doubts about it' The honesty of the Minister has often been called into question. I'll stop here. Otherwise some readers might question me for devoting so much time to the question of 'question."

Published in The Hindu on November 1, 1988

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

On World Hepatitis Day, July 28, here's a quiz on five major forms of hepatitis, primarily affecting the liver, known only by their initials - A, B, C, D, and E

Ramya Kannan

QUESTION 1
The largest organ in the human body, the liver is anatomically divided into --- segments, each with a distinct blood circulatory system, and biliary drainage mechanism. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 2
What was the HBV vaccine called originally? Can you tell us why the name was used.

QUESTION 3
Recently, paleopathologists cracked a 200-year old puzzle: What killed Beethoven? They figured, using DNA analysis, finally that it was Hepatitis B, egged on by his love of consuming spirits. What remnants of the genius composer did the experts use to arrive at their conclusions?

QUESTION 4
Vaccines are available for some strains of hepatitis, not for others. Which are they?

QUESTION 5
Medication has been proven to cure one particular strain of hepatitis; studies show that about 95 % of those with the infection are cured with these drugs. Which strain is it?

Visual Question: This characteristic yellowing of the eye, that can also be caused by hepatitis, what is it owing to? GETTY IMAGES

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Name two events that eclipsed Korean war, especially in American consciousness. **Ans: World War II and the Vietnam War**
2. What was the containment policy otherwise known as? **Ans: Truman Doctrine**
3. The U.S. military planners divided the Korean peninsula in half along a line. Name the line. **Ans: 38th Parallel**
4. Name the U.S. President who referred demilitarised zone as the "scariest place on Earth". **Ans: Bill Clinton**
5. Name the declaration Moon Jae-in and Kim Jong-un made then. **Ans: Panmunjom Declaration**
6. Visual: When the Korean Armistice Agreement was signed in Panmunjom, a copy of this painting was hung inside the building. Name the painting and the painter. **Ans: Pablo Picasso and 'Dove'**
Early Birds: KN Viswanathan | Ishita Thapliyal | Sajin S | Shayon Pal

Word of the day

Malapropism:
The unintentional misuse of a word by confusion with one that sounds similar

Synonyms: error, infelicity

Usage: *Sarah tried to be witty by using a malapropism in her speech.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/malapropismpro

International Phonetic Alphabet:
/mæləprɒpɪzəm/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Kannada filmmaker Nanda Kishore on what led to his downfall, and how he sees the pan-Indian film, *Vrushabha*, as an opportunity to rise again in the industry

Moving on

Vivek MV
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The shoot of Mohanlal's *Vrushabha* began in Mysuru recently, and director Nanda Kishore tells us that he is working like a fresher.

The maker of eight Kannada films, including four hits, has no qualms in admitting that he sees this pan-Indian film as his acid test.

After the controversial run of his ambitious project *Pogaru*, and the debacle of his previous film *Raana*, not many would have imagined Nanda Kishore helming a big-budget project involving a superstar. You sense a mix of nervousness and excitement as he opens up on his massive responsibility.

"People had written me off post my films' failures. I shut out the noise, stopped being seen at public events, and moved to Mumbai. I worked on a story for eight months. One of my friends, Shyam, helped me get in touch with AVS Studios, and the film got rolling," he recollects. *Vrushabha*, a Telugu-Malayalam project to be dubbed in several languages, is a fantasy-action drama based on the dynamics of a father-son relationship. Veteran producer Ekta Kapoor will co-produce the film with Connekt Media.

The film also stars Roshan Meka, Shanaya Kapoor, Ramya Krishna, Simran, Ravi Shankar, Sarathkumar and Garuda Ram. Devi Sri Prasad is the music composer while Santhosh Thundiyil is the cinematographer.

Hope rises (Clockwise) Dhruva Sarja and Rashmika Mandanna in a still from *Pogaru;* Nanda Kishore; actor Mohanlal. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Nanda Kishore says his protagonist needed the stature of an actor like Mohanlal. "Mohanlal is someone who acts with his eyes. He was interested immediately reading the script. I want to remain sincere to his enormous talent."

"Growing up, I loved listening to stories of famous kings and tales from *Chandamama*. I love to offer enough room for actors to perform in emotional stories mounted on a huge scale, such as the *Baahubali* films and *RRR*. I would like people to appreciate my vision as they did for SS Rajamouli or Prashanth Neel."

Nanda Kishore is upset with how people's perception of him has changed post *Pogaru*(2021). The first big Kannada movie to hit the screens post the pandemic, *Pogaru* got into a huge controversy. It was criticised for hurting religious sentiments, and resulted in the cutting of 14 scenes.

"*Pogaru* released to 50% occupancy thanks to the pandemic. The film's performance was decent though it didn't reach our expectations."

Apart from that controversy, people were not impressed with the protagonist's (Dhruva Sarja) hyper-masculine character and his over-the-top dialogue delivery. *Pogaru* was also slammed for demeaning women, especially the heroine's character, essayed by Rashmika Mandanna.

Pogaru was followed by the box office dud *Raana* (2022). He was suddenly being called "a remake director", leaving Nanda Kishore emotionally and financially broken. He debuted with the comedy-drama *Victory*, starring Sharan. His next three films, *Adyaksha*, *Ranna* and *Mukunda Murari*, were remakes that turned out box office hits. The director has made peace with the fact remakes are not going to garner him any appreciation but he hopes viewers would acknowledge his skill in "recreating originals with flair."

Precision counts

"Remaking a hit film needs precision because you are retelling a well-accepted story. A remake of a Pawan Kalyan film (*Attarintiki Daredi*) wasn't an easy task considering his huge fan following. However, *Ranna* was a solid family entertainer."

Nanda Kishore presents a remake with technical finesse, enjoyable comic elements and chartbuster songs, as we saw in *Adyaksha*, a remake of the 2013 Tamil film *Varuthapadatha Valibar Sangam*.

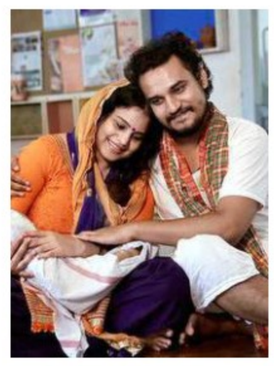
He has, however, failed to churn out a noteworthy original apart from *Victory*. The director blames himself for his fall from grace. "I had become overconfident and arrogant. Once you reach a high point, you tend to lose focus," he says.

In the past, Nanda Kishore had overcome suicidal thoughts before kickstarting his film journey as an assistant director to superstar Sudeep's films. *Vrushabha* has given a purpose to his career again.

STEPOUT

On stage

Watch a theatre performance by Hartman De Souza, titled *Soldier's Silence.* It is a tale of two soldiers from opposing sides. The story is set in an abandoned Indian airport with a faulty electric supply at the peak of summer. It turns into a battleground for a personal war between an American war veteran and an Iraqi militant.
On July 28 at 6.30pm and July 30 at 3.30pm at Atta Galatta.



Celebrating 50!

Forum Three theatre group celebrates its 50th anniversary by staging their new play, *Kohinoor.* The play in Hindi, based on women, has also been written and directed by women. It is open to anyone aged 18 years and above. Tickets are available on BookMyShow.
It will be staged on July 29 at 3.30pm and 7.30pm at Bangalore International Centre.

Back after a break

Nature inFocus festival returns after a three-year pandemic-induced hiatus with a performance by Indian Ocean, flea market, film screenings and more

Praveen Sudevan
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The folk fusion band Indian Ocean shares a connection with Nature, evident through various aspects of their musical journey. First, their very name evokes imagery of the majestic ocean. Their latest album, *Tu Hai*, features a track, 'Jungle'. Another song, 'Mare Wa' from their 2000 album *Kandis*, was about the river Narmada. According to Amit Kilam, the band's drummer and vocalist, Nature is an "intrinsic part" of the music and the lives of the band members.

All this makes them an excellent choice to headline the Nature inFocus festival, which is returning after a three-year pandemic-induced hiatus. Nature inFocus was founded in 2014 by Rohit Varma and Kalyan Varma to build a community for wildlife and Nature lovers – photographers, filmmakers, researchers, conservationists, travellers and Nature enthusiasts. This year's festival will showcase activities such as film screenings, exhibitions, book releases, workshops, and an awards ceremony. Indian Ocean will perform on July 29.

"The band is interested in wildlife," Amit says. "It's like a coming together of our ideas of how we live our lives, our different thoughts, and environment. Nature and photography is such an intrinsic part of a lot of us. We have some friends who brought us and Nature inFocus together. It was something that had to happen."

Folk music in India, traditionally, has spoken about people and their relationship with Nature. Ankit concurs. "When people used to stay close to jungles, their songs, stories, and art were centred around their environment. Now we see a lot of young Indian talent singing about their roots. Some of them directly take songs from their folk readings. So, it is impossible to disassociate folk music from environmental issues."

Though the band does not believe in preaching, Ankit believes art has the power to connect with the people. "Music or any other art form can convey a story in a format people love. So, someone listening to the song now will carry this story about wildlife and the importance of conservation. They will make a difference and pass it on to their generation. That's how art makes a lasting change in society."

In addition to Indian Ocean's performance, this year's festival highlights include a panel discussion commemorating 50 years of Project Tiger, the Nature inFocus Photography Awards Exhibition, the Wildlife Photographer of the Year Exhibition, and a filmmaking masterclass.

"The festival is about hope," says Rohit, a founder of Nature inFocus. "The objective has always been to reconnect people with Nature and to celebrate the natural world. The event gives you the opportunity to learn about the work done by individuals and organisations from all over the country in protecting and conserving the natural world."

The Nature inFocus festival is on from July 28 to 30. Visit festival.natureinfocus.in/2023/ for more details.

For Mother Nature Indian Ocean (left) will perform and there will be a discussion commemorating 50 years of Project Tiger at Nature inFocus. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

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Tiger numbers on the rise in State; minimum estimates pegged at 435

R. Krishna Kumar
MYSURU

The tiger count in Karnataka has seen an increase. The State has a minimum of 435 tigers as per the All-India Tiger Estimation (AITE) exercise conducted in 2022. A minimum of 404 tigers were estimated during the 2018 AITE exercise.

Nagarahole has pipped Bandipur to claim the coveted position of being the national park with the highest number of tigers – 149, as against 140 at Bandipur.

Karnataka conducted the estimation exercise as per the protocols in 2021-22 in a total of 37 forest divisions, of which tiger presence was noted in 22 divisions.

The Karnataka Tiger Cell analysed the AITE 2022 data and the result was released by Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre in Bengaluru on Thursday.

Camera trap images

Kumar Pushkar, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), said based on the 2018 AITE exercise, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) had projected the total tiger count in the State at 524. The projected count for 2022 will be released by the NTCA in due course and the population range is expected to be higher.

Burning bright: Nagarahole with 149 tigers and Bandipur with 140 are the top two tiger reserves in the State. M.A. SRIRAM

He said the minimum tigers estimated for 2022 in Karnataka is based on the camera trap images and there were 4,786 camera trap locations across the 37 forest divisions. The total number of camera trap images captured during the exercise was 66,86,450 and after eliminating the duplicate counts, the minimum tiger estimated for the State has been pegged at 435.

Karnataka conducted the estimation exercise as per the protocols in 2021-22 in 37 forest divisions of which tiger presence was noted in 22 divisions

In five tiger reserves

Among the national parks and tiger reserves, it transpired that there were 149 tigers in Nagarahole followed by Bandipur which has 140 tigers. Bhadra has 26 tigers while BRT Tiger Reserve has a minimum of 39 tigers, and Kali has 19 tigers, as per the data. The five tiger reserves in Karnataka account for 373 tigers out of 435. The rest are spread across various protected areas that are not tiger reserves. This includes seven tigers in the Belagavi forest division, six in Chikkamagaluru division, 11 in Madikeri division, and five in Bhadravati division, as per the report.

M.M. Hills – whose tiger reserve status has been kept in abeyance – has a minimum of five tigers but officials point out that these are based on the camera trapped images only and the actual count at M.M. Hills is higher. The other divisions where tiger presence has been noted include Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary, Kudremukh, Mysuru, Yellapura, Koppa, Bannerghatta, Karwar, and Haliyal.

Steady increase

Bandipur had 79 tigers as per the 2014 AITE exercise and based on the camera-trapped images. This increased to 126 in 2018 and reached 143, of which three were also found in Nagarahole. After eliminating the duplicate counts, the figures for Bandipur were pegged at 140 tigers.

Bhadra had 20 tigers in 2014, 28 in 2018 but it had 26 in 2022. The figures for minimum tigers at BRT is also down from 49 in 2018 to 39 in 2022. Kali, which had three tigers (minimum) in 2014, saw the number go up to 22 in 2018 and the 2022 tiger figures are pegged at 19.

It is Nagarahole which has seen a steady increase in tiger numbers since 2014 when there were 72 tigers. It increased to 125 in 2018 and 149 in 2022. Nagarahole also has the highest density of tigers at 10.88 per sq. km while there are 7.97 tigers per sq. km in Bandipur, as per the Forest Department report.

INBRIEF

67 prisoners to be released

The Cabinet has decided to grant remission of sentence to 67 prisoners who are serving life sentence in different prisons of the State on the occasion of Independence Day. These prisoners were chosen for grant of remission of sentence on the basis of their good conduct and age, said Law Minister H.K. Patil.

Miffed Hariprasad holds talks with Parameshwara

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

B.K. Hariprasad

Senior Congress leader and MLC B.K. Hariprasad, who has been sulking over the denial of a ministerial berth in the Siddaramaiah government, on Thursday called on Home Minister G. Parameshwara and discussed political developments in the party.

On Wednesday, Mr. Hariprasad met KPCC president and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Food and Civil Supplies Minister K.H. Muniyappa and reportedly expressed his anguish over the denial of a ministerial post.

The four-time Rajya Sabha member, former Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, and general secretary of the party for more than a decade, Mr. Hariprasad has been denied the Cabinet berth despite strong recommendations for his induction in the Ministry from former AICC presidents Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, sources said.

After his remarks against Mr. Siddaramaiah that he also knew "how to bring down a Chief Minister", Mr. Hariprasad apparently threatened to resign from the membership of the Council. AICC general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal is said to have mollified Mr. Hariprasad. Apparently, the MLC has been now asking Mr. Shivakumar and Mr. Venugopal the reasons for keeping him out of the Cabinet.

Knowing well that he was not in the camp of Mr. Siddaramaiah, Mr. Hariprasad has reportedly asked Mr. Shivakumar why he had not been included in his (Mr. Shivakumar's) "quota" of Ministers, sources said.

Sources indicated that Dr. Parameshwara, Mr. Shivakumar and others pacified Mr. Hariprasad to wait till the 2024 Lok Sabha elections to ensure smooth reshuffle of the Cabinet.

Induction of N.S. Bosaraju in the Cabinet, who was not a member of the Upper House of the State legislature when he was sworn in, has not gone well with several Congress MLCs.

Rahul exhorts youth to rise against injustice, feel the pain of Manipur

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Thursday exhorted the youth of the country to rise and stand against the injustice and feel the pain of people of Manipur.

"If you cannot feel the pain and hurt of the people of Manipur, you cannot lead the Congress," he told the Indian Youth Congress convention 'Behtar Bharat Ki Buniyaad' being held in Bengaluru, in a live video lecture from Kerala.

Asserting that it was the fight between two ideologies that of the RSS and the BJP on one side and the Congress on other, Mr. Gandhi said they (the RSS and the BJP) want a select group of people to rule and own the resources of the country. They want to give the entire wealth of the country to a select few, he said, according to a press release. The Congress wanted unity and harmony and wanted to take everyone along, he said.

Cabinet decides to provide one-time option to pay penalty for illegal quarrying

Penalty totalling ₹6,105 crore imposed for illegal quarrying yet to be recovered for over 8 years

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Cabinet on Thursday decided to implement a one-time settlement option for those who have indulged in illegal quarrying by paying their penalty.

Briefing media persons after the Cabinet meeting, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil said the total quantum of penalty slapped on firms indulged in illegal quarrying had totalled up to ₹6,105 crore. The penalty had not been recovered for nearly eight years, the Minister said.

A Cabinet sub-committee would be formed under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for deciding the guidelines for one-time settlement scheme, he said.

He explained that the penalty was slapped after conducting an audit on the quantum of the area that had been mined beyond their allotted area and the non-payment of royalty in this regard.

The penalty was slapped after conducting an audit on the quantum of the area that had been mined beyond the allotted area and the non-payment of royalty in this regard, according to the Law Minister.

Change to 'Kodava'

The Cabinet also decided to implement the recommendation of the backward classes commission and the order of the Karnataka High Court by changing the word under OBC caste list 3A-2 category to Kodava/Codava and Kodavaru from the earlier Kodagaru.

Egg procurement

Eggs for being given to anganwadi children and pregnant women as well as new mothers would now need to be procured at the divisional level by calling tenders instead of the earlier system of localised purchases as the State Cabinet has decided to effect changes in the egg procurement norms for this scheme. The total number of beneficiaries under the scheme would be more than 29 lakh, the Minister said, while pointing out that the government had imposed a condition that the price of egg should not exceed ₹6.

The Cabinet also authorised the Chief Minister to constitute a Cabinet subcommittee to empower the Forest Department to recommend to the Centre to declare the areas surrounding the national parks as "environmentally sensitive", the Minister said.

Grant to APMCs

The Cabinet also decided to grant ₹130.4 crore under Nabard's Rural Infrastructure Development Fund Scheme-28 to the APMCs to create necessary infrastructure, including roads.

The Cabinet also granted administrative clearance for releasing ₹22.7 crore for the construction of Charaka Super Speciality Hospital at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College and Research Institute. It also approved the revised estimate of ₹26 crore for building an annex for the Nephro Urology Centre on the premises of the Victoria Hospital, the Minister said.

KAS post: Cabinet decides to accept doctor's request

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Cabinet has decided to accept the request of doctor H.P.S. Mythri, who had petitioned the government seeking that she should be given KAS (junior scale) Group A post under the women's reservation quota of the Scheduled Tribe category.

Briefing media persons after the Cabinet meeting on Thursday, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil said the Cabinet decided to create a supernumerary post to accommodate her as a KAS Group A officer.

Chosen in 2011

It may be noted that Dr. Mythri had been chosen for the post of executive officer under the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department during 2011 when the KPSC had taken up recruitments to fill 362 gazetted probationer posts.

Dr. Mythri had alleged that there were irregularities in the selection by the KPSC, triggering a legal fight over selections. Though the courts had cancelled the entire selection list, the government amended the legislation concerned to provide appointment order to the selected candidates in April 2022.

Requisition

Meanwhile, Dr. Mythri had submitted a requisition to the then Chief Minister on June 29, 2022, seeking that she should be given the KAS Group A post as she was the topper in the ST category. She had alleged that though she topped her category by securing 1,009 marks, she had been given only 75 marks in the interview intentionally while the person who stood second with 937.5 marks had been given 150 marks in the interview.

The then DPAR head and the Chief Secretary had not favoured her request, expressing concern that other candidates may go to court against it. However, the then Cabinet had decided to approve the request, but it had not been translated into notification due to paucity of time.

Set up single-window system to resolve mining lease issues: CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has called for the setting up of a single-window system to resolve issues relating to mining lease.

Mr. Siddaramaiah on Thursday held a meeting to settle the pending issues related to the Forest Department and agencies under the Mines and Geology Department, during which he directed the Ministers concerned and officers to hold monthly meetings to resolve the issues related to forest clearance and other permissions to mining companies in the model of a single-window system.

Many cases that are pending with the Forest Department were also discussed and it was identified that the reason why they were not resolved was because mining companies did not provide alternative land for afforestation. Mr. Siddaramaiah suggested that mining companies must purchase land from farmers willing to sell their agricultural land due to elephant and other wild animal menace, and reallocate the same for afforestation.

Taking stock: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah chairing a meeting on mining and forest issues, in Bengaluru on Thursday. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

On the issue of applications submitted to the Central government on Pravesh portal for permission to carry out mineral exploration in the State through the Government of India-owned KIOCL and MECL, he directed Department of Mines and Geology officials to discuss with these companies to rectify the objections in these applications and get quick clearances.

The Chief Minister also instructed officials to take legal advice from experts for the disposal of iron ore which was confiscated from illegal mining. It is estimated that about 2.7 million tonnes of iron ore is lying in the forest areas.

He also called for quick disposal of applications which come to the task force under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioners.

Amend bylaws

Mr. Siddaramaiah also stressed the need to prioritise the effective implementation of a comprehensive development plan for mining sectors and for the amendment of the Karnataka Mining Environment Restoration Corporation (KMERC) bylaws.

He directed the KMERC to amend the bylaws of the corporation to make the Chief Minister the chairman of the governing body to enable it to effectively implement the action plan of the Comprehensive Development Plan for Mining Impact Zones in mine-affected districts as approved by the Supreme Court.

State road regulatory and development authority to be set up

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Cabinet on Thursday decided to constitute Karnataka State Road Regulatory and Development Authority led by the Chief Minister to identify priority roads that could be taken up for development under the PPP model and prepare detailed project reports, among others.

According to Law Minister H.K. Patil, the proposed authority would also take steps to attract private investments for road development.

Articles invited

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The centenary celebration of economist and former MP late K. Venkatagiri Gowda is being planned during September.

Dr. K. Venkatagiri Gowda Centenary Celebration Committee has urged his friends, students, and admirers to send articles about their experience of working with him along with photographs, to be included in the centenary celebrations souvenir. The committee is organising a preliminary meet on August 5 at BES College Auditorium, 4th Block, Jayanagar, at 11 a.m.

For details, email rnisarga@gmail.com

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

12th ANNIVERSARY

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Siddaramaiah to hold district-wise meetings of MLAs once a month to listen to their woes

Discuss issues with me instead of writing letters and embarrassing the party, the Chief Minister tells legislators

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A letter written by a group of 30 Congress MLAs expressing dissatisfaction over the functioning of Ministers dominated the discussions at the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting here on Thursday and CLP leader and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah decided to call a meeting of legislators district-wise once a month to address their grievances.

KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Ministers, and senior leaders at the Congress Legislature Party meeting in Bengaluru on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

On transfers

With regard to transfer of officials, Mr. Siddaramaiah clearly told Ministers to approve the MLAs' recommendations on transfers of officials at the taluk/constituency level such as sub-inspectors, inspectors, and tahsildars. He instructed Ministers to take decisions on transfer of officials at the district-level, sources said.

On the appointment of panchayat development officers as personal assistants (PAs) by MLAs, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge took exception to it and opposed such appointments as it would adversely affect the functioning and delivery of services of panchayats.

Noting that the government was formed owing to election of MLAs, the Chief Ministers reportedly directed Ministers to listen to the grievances of legislators on priority.

Senior MLAs such as B.R. Patil, Basavaraj Rayaraddi, R.V. Deshpande, Vinay Kulkarni, and C.S. Nadagouda had expressed displeasure on the functioning of many Ministers and urged the Chief Minister to call a CLP meeting.

Instead of writing letters, which would cause an embarrassment to the government, Mr. Siddaramaiah also told MLAs to discuss with him their grievances or raise the issue at party meetings.

The Chief Minister said he was not able to call a CLP meeting earlier as he was busy with preparation of the State Budget, legislature session, and the Opposition parties' meeting in Bengaluru this month.

The Chief Minister told Ministers and legislators not to get trapped by "lies spread by the BJP" on various issues and behave responsibly in the public.

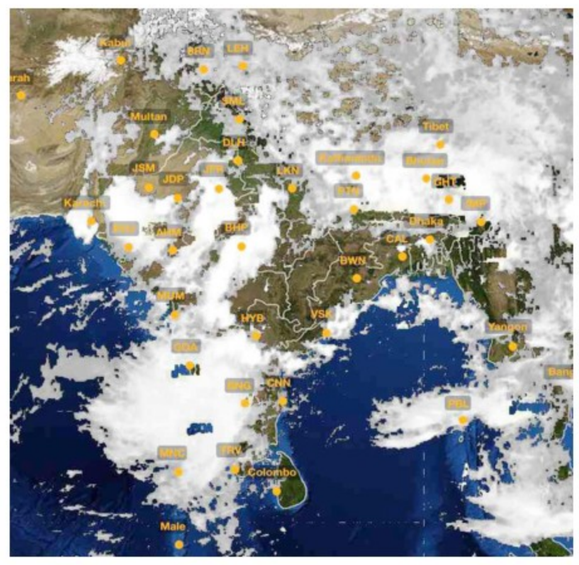
On the release of funds to constituency development works, Mr. Siddaramaiah said it was not possible to give funds demanded by MLAs as the government had to spend close to ₹50,000 crore on implementation of the five guarantees.

However, he assured them of releasing funds on priority.

The sources said some legislators expressed difficulty on meeting the demands of the people if sufficient funds were not given to them.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Sikkim, Odisha, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa and coastal & north interior Karnataka

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.2	34.7	26.5	Kozhikode	27	27.8	23.0
Ahmedabad	—	33.2	27.1	Kurnool	51	28.8	22.2
Aizawl	19	32.4	21.0	Lucknow	5	35.4	28.5
Allahabad	—	38.2	29.4	Madurai	0.1	39.4	26.2
Bengaluru	6.9	25.8	18.8	Mangaluru	42.4	27.4	22.6
Bhopal	12.3	—	24.3	Mumbai	145	26.3	24.4
Bhubaneswar	3.4	31.8	26.0	Mysuru	9	27.4	21.6
Chandigarh	—	34.1	27.2	New Delhi	0.6	34.8	25.8
Chennai	0.3	36.1	27.2	Patna	—	35.7	28.6
Coimbatore	1	30.6	21.2	Port Blair	2	31.0	26.6
Dehradun	0.7	32.4	24.6	Puducherry	—	37.2	27.2
Gangtok	2	23.7	18.0	Pune	8.4	24.7	22.4
Goa	75	26.4	22.7	Raipur	19	33.6	26.3
Guwahati	—	35.3	27.4	Ranchi	4	30.8	23.0
Hubballi	—	25.0	22.0	Shillong	15	25.2	18.0
Hyderabad	47	24.4	21.8	Shimla	5	21.7	16.4
Imphal	3	30.2	22.5	Srinagar	53	30.2	17.3
Jaipur	—	32.8	26.5	Thiruvananthapuram	1	32.4	23.7
Kochi	8	30.0	23.8	Tiruchi	—	37.3	27.0
Kohima	—	25.0	18.2	Vijayawada	50	31.6	24.9
Kolkata	6	33.5	27.4	Visakhapatnam	79	30.7	26.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.24	..52	.41	...105	95	
Bengaluru	.10	..25	.76	18	57	
Chennai	...3	..73	.57	56	52	
Delhi	...5	..25	.81	95	...194	
Hyderabad	.12	..12	.20	56	75	
Kolkata	...3	..20	.18	22	31	
Lucknow	...2	..20	.23	67	87	
Mumbai	.19	7	.91	25	28	
Pune	133	222	109	34	30	
Visakhapatnam	.14	..35	.22	32	68	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 179 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 10

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

G-20: 39 MNCs come together for circular economy coalition

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Embracing a circular economy model enables transition from the linear "take-make-waste" paradigm and embrace a more sustainable and regenerative approach, said Union Minister Bhupender Yadav at the launch of Resource Efficiency Circular Economy Industry Coalition (RECEIC) on the sidelines of the 4th G-20 Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) and Environment and Climate Ministers' meeting in Chennai on Thursday.

As many as 39 multinational corporations (MNCs) from sectors such as steel, FMCG, electronics came together to pledge to adopt resource efficiency and circular economy principles to address environmental challenges rising from waste, including plastics, microplastics, e-waste, and chemical waste. The launch of RECEIC, which involved signing of the foundational charter and unveiling of the logo by Mr. Yadav, was attended by Ministers of seven countries such as Mauritius, Denmark, Italy, Canada, UAE, France, and the European Union.

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav with delegates at the G-20 meeting, in Chennai on Thursday. PTI

Naresh Pal Gangwar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), told the media on Wednesday that the coalition would be led by industries and the government would only play a supporting role.

Speaking about India's efforts to mitigating the burden of plastic waste, Mr. Gangwar said about 41 lakh tonnes of plastic waste were generated in the country in 2021-22, of which 30 lakh tonnes were allocated to 2,000-odd registered recyclers and plastic waste processing units.

Under Extended Producers' Responsibility (EPR) guidelines established through the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2022, 2.6 million tonnes worth of EPR certificates had been generated by plastic waste processors and around 1.51 million tonnes of those certificated had been purchased by PIBOs (Producers, Importers and Brand owners) against 2022-23 obligations, Mr. Gangwar said.

The ECSWG, which will conclude with the Ministers' meeting on Friday, has been involved in discussing environmental issues and promoting global collaboration towards a sustainable and resilient future.

ISRO completes launch rehearsal of PSLV-C56

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has completed the launch rehearsal of the PSLV-C56/DS-SAR Mission, which is scheduled to be launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota at 6.30 a.m. on July 30.

"The launch rehearsal is completed today morning," the space agency said on Thursday.

ISRO had earlier announced the launch of the PSLV-C56 carrying Singapore's DS-SAR along with six co-passengers.

The space agency added that the DS-SAR satellite was developed under a

DS-SAR carries a Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) payload developed by Israel Aerospace Industries

partnership between DSTA (representing the Government of Singapore) and ST Engineering. DS-SAR carries a Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) payload developed by Israel Aerospace Industries. This allows the DS-SAR to provide for all-weather day and night coverage and is capable of imaging at 1m resolution at full polarimetry.

New Space India Limited has procured PSLV-C56 to deploy the DS-SAR satellite.

Decrepit remains

A stretch of the RK beach in Visakhaptanam seen eroded, following monsoon rain that battered the city in the past few days. K.R. DEEPAK

Courts should decide pleas for dissolution of marriage within one year, says Karnataka HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

When a matrimonial case involves the plea for the dissolution/nullity of marriage, the courts should make all efforts to dispose it of within an outer limit of one year so that in the event of granting such a decree the parties may restructure their lives, said the High Court of Karnataka.

Justice Krishna S. Dixit issued the direction while disposing of a petition filed by a man, who had sought a direction to a Family Court in Bengaluru to decide his application, filed way back in 2016 seeking dissolution of marriage with his spouse.

Delay in disposal

"It hardly needs to be stated that 'life is lost in living'. Delay in disposal of such cases very badly affects the parties thereto, needs no deliberation," the court observed while quoting Thomas Carlyle, a British historian and philosopher of great repute who had said, "Life is too short to be little."

Right to speedy justice

Agreeing with the petitioner's contention that he has a right to speedy justice under the Article 21 of the Constitution as per the apex court's interpretation, the High Court said, "It is broadly in agreement with the proposition that matrimonial causes should be tried and disposed of on a war footing, at least as a concession to the shortness of human life."

Plea disposed of

While directing the Family Court to dispose of the petitioner's application within an outer limit of three months, Karnataka High Court directed its Registrar-General to circulate the judgment to all the trial courts so that similarly placed litigants may not unnecessarily knock at the doors of the High Court seeking a direction for the expeditious disposal of their cases.

ISRO's Gaganyaan Service Module Propulsion System aces 2 more hot tests

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully carried out two more hot tests on the Gaganyaan Service Module Propulsion System (SMPS) at ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri, on July 26.

The SMPS is designed and developed by the Liquid Propulsion System Centre (LPSC) in Bengaluru and Valiamala, Thiruvananthapuram.

These tests marked the second and third hot tests in the Service Module – System Demonstration Model (SM-SDM) Phase 2 test series. The first hot test was conducted on July 19.

During the July 26 tests, the thrusters were operated in both continuous and pulse mode, in sync with the mission profile.

According to ISRO, the initial hot test, which lasted for 723.6 second, focussed on demonstrating Orbital Module injection, and the calibration burn of 100 N thrusters and Liquid Apogee Motor (LAM) engines. The calibration burn was essential to identify and isolate any non-operational engines.

The LAM engines and reaction control system (RCS) thrusters performed as expected.

The latter hot test, with a duration of 350 seconds, aimed to demonstrate the circularisation of the Orbital Module to achieve the final orbit.

The Gaganyaan project envisages demonstration of human spaceflight capability by launching a crew of three members to an orbit of 400 km for a three-day mission, and bringing them back safely to Earth, by landing in Indian sea waters. ISRO plans to carry out Gaganyaan's first abort test in August.

Still premature to comment on Udupi voyeurism incident: NCW member Khushboo Sundar

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

National Commission for Women (NCW) member Khushboo Sundar on Thursday said it was still premature to comment on the NCW investigation into the alleged voyeurism video shot at the women's washroom of Netra Jyothi Institute of Allied Health Sciences, Udupi.

"We have just started the investigation and the police have sent the mobile phone handsets for forensic examination. Don't believe the rumours that hidden cameras were kept in the washrooms or about videos being circulated on the social media," she told reporters after her visit to the college in Udupi.

Members of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishat holding a protest demonstration in Udupi on Thursday.

She had long discussions with the college management. "Do not expect us to give judgment or what is our next course of action," Ms. Sundar said.

The NCW is probing the incident along with the State police, she said, urging people not to believe anything other than what the police say. The commission needs more time to gather information.

After holding an elaborate meeting with the Deputy Commissioner and the Superintendent of Police on Wednesday evening, Ms. Sundar had told reporters that the police could not find any video clippings in the three mobile phone handsets handed over by the college management. Even after retrieving data for 40 hours, the police could not gather any information.

Members of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishath on Thursday held a massive demonstration demanding the suspension of Malpe Circle Inspector of Police for allegedly misleading the investigation. They also demanded the investigation officer be changed in the case registered by the Malpe police on July 25.

SP Akshay M. Hakay, who arrived at the location owing to students' demand, said the IO was already changed and a special team was formed for the probe.

A student of Netra Jyothi institutions took the Superintendent of Police to task by asking how prudent he was when endorsing the management's statement that the video was shot for 'fun'. College administrative officer Abdul had told students that the erring students were given the punishment of writing an imposition five times, she told the Superintendent of Police.

Elusive consensus

The government must transparently lay out the state of relations with China

India and China have once again appeared to walk away from their latest high-level engagement with sharply different diagnoses of what ails their relations. During a meeting earlier this week in Johannesburg between National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and top Chinese diplomat and Politburo member Wang Yi (he heads the Communist Party's Central Foreign Affairs Commission and was re-appointed Foreign Minister after the sudden removal of his successor Qin Gang), Mr. Doval highlighted India's concerns about the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). China's actions, he said, had "eroded" the "public and political basis" of ties. He also stressed the need to "... restore peace and tranquillity in the border areas, so as to remove impediments to normalcy in bilateral relations". The Chinese readout, in contrast, emphasised the big picture, calling for the "early" return of ties "to the track of healthy and stable development". It also called on both sides to follow "an important consensus" that was, it revealed, reached by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi in Bali last year to stabilise ties. This claimed "Bali consensus" had not been previously disclosed by either side. The Ministry of External Affairs, which stated they only exchanged courtesies, has subsequently conceded that they also discussed the "need to stabilize bilateral relations".

Whether or not the leaders exchanged more than pleasantries in Bali, the contrasting claims from the latest meeting have only reinforced the need for the Modi government to more transparently lay out the state of relations with China, and especially along the border. Opacity and defensiveness have marked the government's responses since tensions began in April 2020 to any questions about the border or its broader approach to China, which appears increasingly rife with contradictions. Only this week, the Minister of State for Electronics and IT, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, told a British newspaper that the government welcomed investment from China. Trade with China boomed to record levels in 2020 and 2021 led by imports of Chinese machinery, while at the same time the government has banned more than 200 Chinese apps, including TikTok. Meanwhile, after 18 rounds of talks, there remains little clarity on the LAC situation and the continuing ingresses by China in Demchok and Depsang, the last two remaining friction points. While the arrangements to set up buffer zones in five other points are welcome, the terms of the arrangements and withdrawals by both sides also remain shrouded in secrecy. As both sides continue to find a way to stabilise ties and restore peace, the public should be kept informed. Relations with India's biggest neighbour are far too important to be conducted in the shadows.

Fractured mandate

Spanish voters have placed their faith in mainstream parties

Spain's parliamentary elections on Sunday show that the mainstream conservative and socialist parties remain the favourite choices of the electorate even when far-right parties are on the rise in other European countries. The ruling Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE), under the leadership of Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, sought a fresh mandate based on the government's performance and promise of economic equity, while the opposition People's Party (PP) offered pro-business and investment policies. The PP won 136 seats, from 89 in the last election, but fell short of a majority in the 350-member lower House. The far-right, anti-immigrant Vox party, a potential coalition ally of the PP, won 33 seats, down from 52 four years ago. The PSOE, which was expected to be punished by voters, got 122 seats, two more from the last election. But the Socialists' coalition partner, Sumar, dropped from 38 to 31. Voters supported the Conservatives but not their potential far-right allies; they refused to punish the socialists, but voted down their leftist allies. This fractured mandate has left Spain in a political gridlock, pushing it into prolonged coalition building talks.

Europe has seen a clear shift towards the right. In southern Europe such as Italy and Greece, anti-immigrant and hard-right parties have secured victories in their most recent elections. Elsewhere in the continent, including France, far-right parties with neo-Nazi ties are on the ascent. But Spain's case has been different. The PSOE went to the polls with a relatively good record. Mr. Sánchez's government led the country out of the COVID-19 pandemic with an efficient vaccination campaign. When much of Europe was reeling under high inflation, partly due to the Ukraine war and the West's sanctions on Russia, Mr. Sánchez shielded the economy from the crisis – inflation fell from 10.7% a year ago to 1.6% in June. The Left had also warned the electorate about the possibility of the Vox, whose members include supporters of the late fascist dictator, Francisco Franco, entering the government with the PP – it would have been the first entry of such a party into the government since Spain's democratic transition in the late 1970s. The PSOE campaign was focused on its achievements and voter apprehension about the far-right's entry seems to have helped the party avert the rout that most opinion polls had predicted. Given that no bloc has a clear majority, the focus is on the smaller regional parties, including the pro-independence ones in Catalonia and the Basque region. This gives Mr. Sánchez an edge in coalition building talks as he has a record of cooperating with regional parties.

Weighing in on the National Research Foundation Bill

Furqan Qamar

is former Adviser for Education in the Planning Commission and a Professor of Management at the Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. He was also Secretary General of the Association of Indian Universities and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Rajasthan and the Central University of Himachal Pradesh

The scientific community in India is abuzz with curiosity and excitement after the Union Cabinet's approval of the National Research Foundation (NRF) Bill 2023 in June this year to "strengthen the research eco-system in the country".

The Bill is to be introduced in Parliament. Once passed, it is to establish an apex body to spearhead research and development, foster a culture of innovation, and nurture a research ecosystem across all universities and colleges in the country.

Simultaneously, the Bill seeks to repeal the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) Act 2008, under which the SERB was established as a statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) to carry out almost the same or similar functions which the NRF proposes to do.

The finer points

The idea of establishing the NRF as an independent foundation to promote and fund research was mooted by the Kasturirangan Committee in 2019 and adopted in the National Education Policy (NEP 2020). Importantly, both documents mentioned, in no uncertain terms, that the institutions currently funding research, such as the DST, the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), and the University Grants Commission (UGC), as well as various other private and philanthropic organisations, would continue to fund research according to their priorities and needs independently.

The list of existing institutions funding research did not separately mention the SERB but there was no indication in the policy document that it would be abolished or subsumed into the NRF. Therefore, the scientific community had assumed that it shall, as a statutory body of the DST, continue to support and fund research as before.

To lend credence to the idea, it highlighted the point that leading research-producing nations had multiple public and private funding agencies; further, there was no reason that India could not stand to benefit from the practice.

The idea of having multiple research funding agencies gets further reinforced by the statement that the NRF would coordinate with other funding agencies and work with science, engineering, and other academies to ensure synergy of purpose and avoid duplication of efforts.

> Budgetary allocation for the National Research Foundation should not be reduced as growth in research and knowledge creation is linked to ample financial support

The financial outlay

Highlighting the lack of a conducive research ecosystem and underinvestment in research, the Kasturirangan Committee had said that the NRF would get an 'annual grant of Rs. 20,000 Crores (Rs 2 Kharab or 0.1% of GDP)'.

It did not say how long this grant would continue, but it did note that research spending in the country was a meagre 0.65% of GDP compared to 2.8% in the United States, 2.1% in China, 4.3% in Israel and 4.2% in South Korea. It expressed concern that research and innovation spending in the country had declined from 0.84% of GDP in 2008 to 0.69% in 2014.

Against this backdrop, even those who were pessimistic had felt that the proposed annual grant would continue until the research spending in the country reached the level it had been in 2008. The optimists in the community had hoped that it might continue until it reached the level of research spending in the U.S.

The NEP 2020 adopted the idea, but without any specific financial commitment. In the meantime, public and private expenditure on research and development taken together kept sliding to touch 0.64% of GDP in 2020-21 compared to 0.76% in 2011-12.

A Press Information Bureau release suggests that the NRF will have ₹10,000 crore for five years and thus get a total of ₹50,000 crore. Despite the scant details available in the public domain, it shows that the government grant or budgetary support would be at the most ₹14,000 crore while the remainder (₹36,000 crore) is to be mobilised through industry and other private philanthropic sources. This would effectively mean that the NRF would get a maximum annual grant of ₹2,800 crore over the next five years, a mere 14% of what the Kasturirangan Committee had recommended.

Following the repeal of its Act, the SERB will be subsumed into the NRF. The SERB was established as a statutory body of the DST to plan, promote and fund internationally competitive research in emerging areas of science and engineering. The SERB has been instrumental in building a sustainable research ecosystem 'through a diverse programme portfolio that includes grant funding, fostering young researchers, recognising and rewarding research excellence, promoting scientific networks and partnerships, and enhanced gender and social inclusiveness'.

Budgetary allocation for the SERB had steadily increased from ₹200 crore in 2011-12 to ₹1,000 crore in 2018-19. Since then, allocation declined to ₹742 crore in 2020-21, but again rose to ₹911.46 crore in 2021-22. SERB programmes, schemes and activities have been important in financing basic research in science and engineering, and most of them will continue under the NRF with some tweaking and tinkering.

It is hoped that the budgetary allocation for the NRF will not be reduced by the amount allocated for the SERB. Experience shows that when schemes are merged or subsumed into a new scheme, the allocation for the new scheme is generally lower than the total for the discontinued schemes.

Greater relevance now

The criticality of research and knowledge creation and the importance of enhancing funding for research has been amply highlighted by the New Education Policy. It insists that the economic prosperity of many developed countries, now and in the ancient past, can be attributed to their intellectual capital and to their fundamental contributions to new knowledge in science, arts and culture. It cites India, Mesopotamia, Egypt and Greece as examples.

The NEP argues that a robust research ecosystem acquires greater importance now due to growing challenges in the world and opportunities due to technological advancements.

The policy asserts that India has had a long tradition of research and knowledge creation in science, mathematics, art, literature, phonetics, language, medicine and agriculture, which needs to be strengthened to make India a leader. These are laudable ideas and intentions, but need to be backed by ample financial support, at least to the extent the Kasturirangan Committee had insisted upon.

The views expressed are personal

The hornets' nests in the Forest Amendment Bill

Rajesh Thadani

is a forest ecologist

Ravi Chellam

is CEO, Metastring Foundation and Coordinator, Biodiversity Collaborative

The Lok Sabha passed the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023, on July 26, with no substantive changes from the original version introduced in March. It ignores strong public objections that highlighted a number of concerns. The Bill commences with a promising Preamble, expressing a commitment to achieving net zero emissions by 2070, creating a carbon sink, increasing forest cover, and improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent communities. However, the operative part of the Bill shows little connect with the Preamble. Instead, it excludes entire categories of forest from the ambit of the law and, ironically, even facilitates the destruction of forests.

The problem areas

The Forest Conservation Act of 1980, which this Bill aims to amend, admittedly and justifiably adopted a rather protectionist stance which made forest clearances time consuming and costly to obtain. While current development needs and priorities must be recognised, this Bill deviates in a significant manner from the spirit of the original law. Three points that emerge from the Bill have caused considerable consternation among environmental experts: the narrowed definition of forests under its scope; the exclusion of significant tracts of forest areas; and the granting of sanction to additional activities that were regulated earlier. These need to be better explained.

The Bill will significantly restrict the application of the landmark Godavarman judgment of 1996 which had extended the scope of the 1980 Act to the dictionary meaning of 'forest' – that is, areas with trees rather than just areas legally notified as forest. The present Amendment restricts the Forest Conservation Act to only legally notified forests and forests recorded in government records on or after October 25, 1980. This change could potentially impact around 28% of India's forest cover, encompassing almost 2,00,000 square kilometres. While these forests include fruit orchards and plantations, they also encompass forests of exceptional quality and conservation value. An instance is the category of Unclassed Forests in Nagaland, that have so far not been officially recorded or deemed forests despite centuries of protection and use by autonomous clans. Perversely, States that have refused to identify important forest areas despite the Godavarman judgment, may now be free to allow the destruction of these forests for construction and development. For the same reason, large swathes of the Aravalli Hills in the Delhi National Capital Region which are considered ecologically significant, apart from being critical to the water security of this region, may be affected by the amendment.

> The operative part of the Bill shows little connect with the Preamble, excluding entire categories of forest from the ambit of the law, and even facilitating their destruction

Second, the Bill excludes some of India's most fragile ecosystems as it removes the need for forest clearances for security-related infrastructure up to 100 km of the international borders. These include globally recognised biodiversity hotspots such as the forests of northeastern India and high-altitude Himalayan forests and meadows.

Third, the Bill introduces exemptions for construction projects such as zoos, safari parks, and eco-tourism facilities. Artificially created green areas and animal enclosures are very different from natural ecosystems which provide a bouquet of ecosystem services that contribute significantly to human well-being. What is worrying is that the Bill also grants unrestricted powers to the Union government to specify 'any desired use' beyond those specified in the original or amended Act. Such provisions raise legitimate concerns about the potential exploitation of forest resources without adequate environmental scrutiny.

Disenfranchising forest people

Another important concern is that the Bill makes no reference to other relevant forest laws. For instance, the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest-dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 finds no mention. Instead, the exclusion and ease of diversion of forest areas will mean that forest people's institutions no longer need to be consulted. This is not just a matter of equity. In neighbouring Nepal, the handing over of forests to local community forest user groups is credited to have helped the country increase its forest cover from 26% to 45% over just three decades. If India is to meet its net zero carbon commitments and increase forest cover (as the Bill envisages in its Preamble), it would be wise to further the participation of forest people, rather than disenfranchise them.

Exclusions that raise eyebrows

The system of forest clearances under the FCA (1980) may have been flawed but this Bill does little to rectify these deficiencies. Instead, it just excludes certain privileged sectors from its ambit. When democracy's gears grind a little too slowly, it is better to fix them than to dismantle them. These systems provide an essential check to assess the impact of projects which change land use and to mitigate the impacts resulting from environmental destruction.

Yes, exceptions are needed. The objective of fast-tracking strategic and security related projects is a fair ask. Administrative processes can and should be speeded up and needless delays in environmental clearance avoided. However, giving blanket exemptions from regulatory laws is not the answer. The importance of India's natural ecosystems must be valued. India's northern borders, where exemptions will perhaps be most used, are framed by the geologically active Himalaya. Recent events in Joshimath (Uttarakhand) have shown the need for proper geological and environmental assessments for all development projects.

Forests and other natural ecosystems cannot be considered a luxury. They are an absolute necessity.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Break the silence

The media is replete with happenings in the State of Manipur. The whole country is aware of the sad state of affairs and hopes that the Prime Minister makes a detailed statement in Parliament on what has become a very sensitive and sticky issue. Country before self, Mr. Prime Minister.

Mani Nataraajan,
Chennai

Switch them off

I write this letter as a retired teacher. UNESCO 'endorsing the banning of smartphones in schools' (Inside pages, July 27) should be extended to homes as well. Children with a mobile in hand is becoming a household problem as mobiles rule the roost. Parents should take the initiative to disengage children from mobiles. For this they should prove to be role models first.

T. Michael Joseph,
Karaikal

It should not be forgotten that but for smartphones, education would have been near impossible during the COVID-19 pandemic. The solution now is supervised learning using smartphones. Teachers need to be sensitised on the proper use of smartphones as they are devices that increase personal productivity much like personal computers did when they were introduced.

P. Radhakrishnan,
Coimbatore

Learning, especially in the early years of schooling needs to be done with proper classroom interaction, where teachers engage students in constructive ways. Face to face physical interactions are essential for overall physical and mental development. The use of smartphones and digital technology can begin only in the senior-level classes.

Anchearil Skaria Sebastian,
Kanjoor, Kerala

This is an age where children ask for smartphones like they demand their favourite foods. Unchecked screen time affects their well-being. Schools need to make children aware of responsible use of digital technology.

Dev Pradhan,
Muzaffarpur, Bihar

Such a ban will make a lot of sense as it will augment academic learning and protect children from cyberbullying. According to a study by researchers at the University of Texas, when schools prohibit smartphones inside the classroom, grades quickly improve on the whole. Scientists continue to warn about the dangers of children spending hours looking at a mobile screen.

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

Corrections & Clarifications

A sentence in the story titled "Opposition MPs walk out of parliamentary panel meet on Personal Data Protection Bill" (July 27, 2023) read *the meeting was only the third since the [Parliamentary Standing] committee [on Information Technology] was reconstituted in September 2022*. It should have said *the meeting was only the third on the subject of "citizens' data security and privacy since the committee was reconstituted in September 2022*.

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Is seat adjustment enough for Opposition unity?

Suhas Palshikar

taught political science at Savitribai Phule University, Pune, and is chief editor of 'Studies in Indian Politics'

E. Sridharan

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PARLEY

On July 18, the top leaders of 26 Opposition parties joined hands to form INDIA (Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance), a coalition to take on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the 2024 general elections. The coalition plans to set up an 11-member coordination committee, prepare an action plan, and eventually work out a seat-sharing arrangement. But is seat adjustment enough for Opposition unity? Suhas Palshikar and E. Sridharan discuss this question in a conversation moderated by **Sandeep Phukan**. Edited excerpts:

Is seat sharing enough to keep the Opposition bloc united?

Suhas Palshikar: No, not at all. More than seat sharing, it is the resonance of their [INDIA]'s programmes and unity which will matter.

Seat sharing is going to be a major impediment, but at the same time, it is of secondary relevance. That is because in most States, the Congress and some of the State parties are already in competition with each other, which makes seat sharing very difficult. Each party would obviously like to expand its own footprint in these respective States, and their political ambitions will come in the way of making adjustments with the other. There would be pressure from workers and also internal claimants from each party not to do seat adjustment. It is going to a tricky issue to decide for which seats there should adjustment.

E. Sridharan: I agree. From an academic, not political, perspective, in the first-past-the-post system, a party wins by getting the single largest number of votes at the constituency level. Therefore, vote pooling becomes an imperative at the constituency level, derivatively at the State level in a federal system, and at the national level. In a pre-electoral alliance, you are making coalitions under uncertainty. Nobody knows how much strength the potential partner or the opponent has on the ground. The system rewards getting the single largest number of votes, and a party is under the imperative to ally and add to its vote pool. A small swing in votes can lead to a bigger swing in seats. In that process, ideology and principles tend to get diluted and pragmatism tends to dominate. Now, what happens in States where they already have a long-standing alliance with other parties and share seats? It is difficult to change that ratio and to get their partners to agree to contest less seats. On the other hand, in new alliances, there is flexibility. I would see such negotiations

Leaders of Opposition parties in Bengaluru. MURALI KUMAR K.

playing out in a highly contested and conflictual way across States.

These 26 parties have called themselves INDIA as they believe that the idea of India is under threat. Do they share common ideological ground or is their opposition to the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi the only glue that is holding them together?

SP: There is no point in denying that the INDIA coalition has come into being mainly on the grounds of its opposition to the BJP. But at the same time, if one doesn't understand ideology only in the orthodox sense of the term, there does exist an ideological divide now. And ironically, this ideological divide is imposed mainly because of the ideological emphasis of the BJP itself. Because the BJP has pursued a certain ideology, other parties have naturally veered towards one another and are upholding something opposite to that. They have not been able to name it yet and that is why they call themselves in vague terms as upholders of the idea of India.

I think there is this question of exclusionary nationalism as opposed to inclusive nationalism; the idea of exclusion of certain communities as opposed to the inclusion of all in the development plank. Ideologically, this can be seen as the dividing line between the two coalitions that are emerging. Plus, of course, the personality-centred exercise of power by the BJP gives the INDIA alliance an additional ideological advantage in becoming more diverse and less authoritarian in its approach to the questions of power. So, yes, I would argue that there is an ideological difference [between INDIA and the NDA]. The complaint would be that this ideological difference is not easily visible or comprehensible to an ordinary citizen yet.

ES: There seems to be little ideological coherence in the Opposition beyond their opposition to the BJP. But there is also another common basis for opposition to the BJP, which is

> There is this question of exclusionary nationalism as opposed to inclusive nationalism. Ideologically, this can be seen as the dividing line between the two coalitions.
> **SUHAS PALSHIKAR**

that the BJP tends to eat into the voter base of these parties in various States, threatening their viability. The BJP has grown in the northern and western States – partly on its own ideological steam and partly by eating into the base of other parties including those allied with it against the Congress at various times since its growth trajectory took off from 1989. It has done this successfully in Assam and Karnataka as well.

On some key political issues, there are marked differences. Take, for example, the Uniform Civil Code. Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena supports it, while the Left parties are against it. The Congress is yet to take a firm stand on it. Will this not confuse voters?

SP: This will be an important challenge for the INDIA alliance. But also at the same time, look at what Dr. Sridharan was saying about these parties realising that this is a question of survival for them. Just as the Aam Admi Party or the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) have supported the UCC, they are also realising the virtue of a common platform, not simply because of a tactical question but also on the grounds of federalist ideology. There seem to be two or three different ideological registers operating in politics. On some of these registers, the INDIA partners are in sync with one another and on some others, they are not. Therefore, I think, they are prevaricating on the question of coming out with a common minimum programme. One may go back to the NDA that Atal Behari Vajpayee had formed in 1996. He and his colleagues in the BJP had the sagacity to keep out contentious issues and say 'let us come together'. I think that would be the model or that should be the model for the INDIA alliance. Let us keep contentious issues aside and come together on issues on which we think there is congruence and some kind of a consensus.

ES: Given that they are so disparate, their views are not synchronised on many issues – fundamental issues and broad policy issues. For pre-electoral coalitions, there is no alternative but to make either compromises, or set aside or shelve some issues on which no compromise can be reached. That was the model for the Vajpayee government in 1999 when the BJP/NDA had a full term. They needed it because their coalition partners could not agree on these issues. Such pragmatic compromises are driven by the imperatives of pre-electoral coalition-building under uncertainty in a first-past-the-post system that rewards vote aggregation. Comparatively speaking, from an academic perspective, in most proportional representation systems, you get a roughly proportional seat share to your vote share even with a small vote share, so you don't have to compromise on policy stands before elections, only at the stage of government formation.

Parliamentary elections are increasingly becoming presidential in nature. People often ask: Modi versus who? Won't that be a handicap for the Opposition?

SP: Yes and no in the sense that if they can rupture this narrative of presidential type of elections, they can easily go beyond Modi and the question 'if not Mr. Modi, then who?' The media is playing into the hands of the BJP and repeatedly posing this question as if it were a presidential election. The INDIA coalition will have the responsibility of not only rupturing this narrative, but also posing a narrative of programmes and performance which will push them into the reckoning against the BJP.

ES: I agree that elections are becoming semi-presidential in nature. The last few Lokniti-CSDS surveys showed that a third of BJP voters said that had the candidate not been Mr. Modi, they would have voted differently, indicating that the party rode on Mr. Modi's popularity to a considerable extent. But this is not something new. In the 1971 election, Indira Gandhi was pitched against the Congress (O) which had no charismatic leader. In 1984, Rajiv Gandhi won by a three-fourths majority.

People vote in their constituency for the candidate of the party whose leader they want to see as Prime Minister, the candidate being less important than the party, as Lokniti data shows. So, this semi-presidential character has been there for a long time. And there, the Opposition alliance seems to have a problem unless they subordinate their ambitions and back a single alternative leader. This will be a tough call as things stand now given that there are State-level rivalries between the Congress and some Opposition parties in some States. As of now they are at a disadvantage on the leadership issue given the likely semi-presidential character of the coming contest.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

A fine balance

It is not easy for journalists to be fair and robust in their reportage while also respecting the privacy of the families of the victims

Soma Basu

Stories of sexual assault and violence, natural calamities, and deadly accidents often occupy news space. It is not easy for journalists to be fair and robust in their reportage while also respecting the privacy of the families of the victims. But unless a journalist understands trauma better, they cannot write a 'good' story.

Three decades ago, during my journalism course, I was not taught about the ethics of covering tragedies. Neither were there discussions in the newsroom about being sensitive while reporting tragedies and respecting and protecting the privacy of the families of victims. Media sensitisation programmes did not exist until the early 2000s when non-governmental organisations began conducting workshops to train reporters on the terminologies to be used while filing reports about HIV-AIDS.

In the 1990s, I came across a nurse working in a hospital in Delhi. She went under the knife to get rid of some stubborn moles on her cheeks and neck before her marriage to a doctor working in the same hospital. The procedure was being done by a colleague in dermatology.

Unfortunately, things went wrong. A source informed me that she had slipped into coma post-surgery. We managed to get a photo of the nurse, who was intubated in the ICU, and other details from her fiancée.

But after sharing his story with us, the doctor, her fiancé, requested us not to publish the story and the photo. His reason was unique. He argued that once the story was read, the newspaper would eventually go into a dustbin or be used to clean surfaces, pack food, or wrap shoes. This, he said, would dishonour his fiancé. It would pain him immensely to see her photo in the pages of newspapers that go into scrap, he said.

This was an emotional reaction that I wasn't prepared for. I tried explaining that photographs of presidents, prime ministers and celebrities are published in the paper daily. But to him, his beloved mattered the most. For me, abiding by his request meant letting go of an exclusive story. Yet, that moment taught the young reporter in me about love, grief, and respect. I left leaving my visiting card with him. Two days later, he had a change of mind. The fact that I held back the story offered some solace to him. The doctor later highlighted safety issues in cosmetic surgery.

In *Compassion Fatigue: How The Media Sell Disease, Famine, War And Death*, journalist Susan D. Moeller writes, "Suffering that exists somewhere else is a form of entertainment." Unnatural deaths often become sensational stories. The rise of television news and the race for TRPs has changed journalism in many ways. Often, cameras and microphones are stuffed into the faces of victims of crime and their relatives, without any regard for their state of mind. Journalists have to create boundaries and build their own ethics.

Another time, an old survivor of a gruesome terrorist attack in Delhi lost her cool when the photographer took pictures of her granddaughter, who had been hit by a bullet, post-operation. She cried and shouted at me asking if the photograph would bring back her family members killed in the massacre. I had no answer.

Over the years, I have learnt that experience brings nuance into reporting. Dart Centre's trauma and journalism guide says there has to be space for care and kindness, however chaotic the circumstances. Journalists are required to go after the truth, but they also need to humanise their approach and writing when dealing with sensitive subjects. The motivation behind every story should be public interest and not agendas. The coverage of every crime is a case in point, and more so in the age of social media where all kinds of information are available.

Editorial bosses can only instruct reporters to be bold and truthful; it is up to each journalist to understand their responsibility in reporting with accuracy, sensitivity, empathy, and respect.

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Relentless rains, abiding faith

Pouring rain notwithstanding, the faithful circumambulate the Theerthakulam of the Koodalmanikyam temple in Irinjalakuda, in Thrissur district of Kerala. This is part of the 'Naalambalam' pilgrimage undertaken during the Malayali month of Karkadakam, when monsoon is know to reach its peak. Thulasi Kakkat

FROM THE ARCHIVES The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 28, 1973

UK bank rate at new high as pound dips

London, July 27: The Bank of England to-day pushed up its minimum lending rate from 9 to 11.5 per cent, the highest in British history, in a move aimed at restoring the position of sterling on the world's money markets. The pound to-day continued the sudden downward plunge it began yesterday against the U.S. dollar. Trading was described to-day as "rather nervous" after yesterday's assault on the pound, which dipped below $2.50 in London for the first time since May 7 and touched new lows against most other European currencies. In initial London trading to-day, it took $2.4725 to buy a pound, as against yesterday's closing of $2.4845. The pound is in very serious trouble in European exchange markets and its acutely embarrassing the British government. This is regarded as a disastrous new money crisis.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 28, 1923

Burma Diocesan Council

Rangoon, July 30: At today's sitting of the annual session of the Diocesan Council the Indian Church measure was discussed. Thisprovides for the severing of legal connection between the Church of England and the Church of England in India and Ceylon and to enable the Church in India and Ceylon to exercise powers of self-Government.

From Page One

SC extends Mishra's tenure as ED Director

Justice Gavai said the court could have stopped this person from continuing as ED Director from the very day of the judgment on July 11. "We gave you time till July 31 for the sake of smooth transition," the judge observed.

Mr. Mehta agreed that no one was indispensable. He said a good FATF peer review was a five-year exercise. "Continuity in office would help the country and decide the country's ability, help in international credit ratings, financial arrangements with the World Bank... It is a coincidence that the July 11 verdict came at the time of the FATF review," he submitted.

Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju said there were hostile countries which wanted India to be in the "grey list". "We are now in the FATF list of compliant countries. A new ED Director would take at least six months to look through and understand the files," he said.

Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, for a petitioner, said the government's application was a "review in disguise" of the July 11 verdict.

"It is very sad to see the Centre saying the future of the country is on one man's shoulders. It is the Ministry officials, the Secretary of Revenue, and not ED Director, who engages with the FATF," Mr. Singhvi submitted.

CBI to probe Manipur sexual assault; 1 killed

The Centre's decision to hand over the probe to the CBI came on the eve of a Supreme Court hearing on the case. Calling the incident "unfortunate and unacceptable, it said "justice should be seen to be done" in such a heinous offence so that "it has a deterrent effect throughout the nation with respect to crimes against women".

"This is one of the reasons why the Central Government [with consent from the State Government] has taken a decision to entrust the investigation to an independent investigating agency i.e. CBI," it said. According to the affidavit filed by Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla, the Manipur government wrote to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Wednesday, recommending the shifting of the probe to the CBI.

Seven persons, including a juvenile, have been arrested by the Manipur Police in the case so far. In total, 14 suspects have been identified. The accused who filmed the incident on his phone was arrested soon after the video surfaced on social media on July 19. His phone has been seized. "We have some leads and will soon make more arrests in the case," a senior Manipur police officer said.

The affidavit stated that the State government has formulated rehabilitative measures for the victims, including counselling from a trained professional, shelter at a place of choice maintaining secrecy and security, arrangement for education and suitable job to the victims/next of kin subject to willingness and suitability.

To prevent repetition of such incidents, reporting of all such cases to the Director-General of Police by the police station in-charge of the jurisdiction has been made mandatory.

Gunfight incident

A 30-year-old man was killed in Churachandpur, amid an intense gunfight between two groups in the Kangvai area, in the foothills bordering Churachandpur and Bishnupur districts. The exchange of fire that started in the early hours of Thursday continued till late in the evening. The area, which has seen frequent violence since May 3, has significant presence of Central security forces and the Army. A source said that the Central forces were trying to diffuse the situation. The Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum (ITLF) said that the deceased, identified as Lunminthang, was a resident of S. Bolkot village. It added that three others had been injured.

Stapled visas for Arunachal athletes unacceptable: India

External Affairs Ministry slams China's move, says it will respond suitably; New Delhi agrees with Beijing's statement that Modi, Xi discussed bilateral ties during G-20 summit in Bali last November

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Behind the scenes: India now says that the Modi-Xi engagement in Bali last November was not just a courtesy call. PTI

Terming China's decision to revive the practice of "stapled visas" for Indian sportspersons from Arunachal Pradesh "unacceptable", India on Thursday lodged a strong protest and said that it would respond suitably, after Beijing refused to give normal visas to three Wushu players.

The athletes were part of the 12-member team bound for the World University Games in Chengdu on Wednesday night. The team was held back after the government realised that the three athletes belonging to Arunachal Pradesh had been given "stapled visas", which denotes China's contention that the Indian State is a disputed territory.

News of the new rift came even as the External Affairs Ministry admitted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping had discussed how to improve bilateral relations when they met in Bali in November 2022, something that the government had not revealed so far.

"It has come to our notice that stapled visas have been issued to some of our citizens representing the country in an international sporting event in China. This is unacceptable and we have lodged a strong protest with the Chinese side reiterating our position. India reserves the right to a suitable response to this action," Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said.

China's decision to give stapled visas to the athletes is a reversion to its actions in 2011-2013, when it began to issue stapled visas to Indians from Jammu and Kashmir (then including Ladakh) and Arunachal Pradesh. Mr. Bagchi also clarified that Mr. Modi and Mr. Xi's talks when they met in Bali eight months ago were not merely an "exchange of courtesies". The clarification came after China's Ministry for Foreign Affairs said on Tuesday that the two leaders had "reached an important consensus" in Bali on stabilising India-China relations.

"During the Bali G-20 summit last year we had said that at the conclusion of the dinner hosted by the Indonesian President, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping had exchanged courtesies, and also spoke of the need to stabilise bilateral relations," Mr. Bagchi said.

He added that for India the key to resolving bilateral issues was to resolve the issues at the LAC and to "restore peace and tranquillity to these areas".

India is recognised as a voice of peace, security: Jaishankar

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

S. Jaishankar

Amid an "unprecedented and complex" geopolitical situation, India is now recognised as a voice that speaks for all and stands for peace, security and prosperity, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said in Parliament on Thursday.

Making a *suo motu* statement on "Latest developments in India's foreign policy" in both Houses of Parliament, he said India's G-20 Presidency had served as a catalyst in invigorating the country's foreign policy and also realising the vision of "*Atmanirbhar* (self-reliant) and *Viksit* (developed) Bharat'.

He highlighted the rising stature of India at the international level, and listed out the overseas engagement by the President, Vice-President, Prime Minister and Union Ministers.

India's stature, he said, has been rising globally and the country is emerging as a "credible and effective" development partner. "... We are now seen as a credible and effective development partner," he said.

The Minister said at a time when international affairs have become "unprecedented and complex", India's people-centric foreign policy is guided by the demands and aspirations of society.

"Today, the world recognises that when India speaks, it speaks not only for itself but for many others. And that India speaks as a voice of peace, security, and prosperity for all," he said.

Opposition MPs to visit Manipur valley, hills this weekend

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

INDIA grouping has been accusing Prime Minister of running away from a debate on the ethnic clash

After a week of disrupting Parliament in protest against the government's failure to address the situation in Manipur, more than 20 Opposition MPs from the INDIA parties will spend the weekend in the strife-torn State, visiting both the valley and hill regions on July 29 and 30.

On Thursday, Opposition MPs – dressed in black as a sign of protest – again accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of running away from a debate on Manipur on the floor of the House.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge asked the PM to quit making political speeches in Rajasthan and speak in Parliament instead. "Today, people have become aware and they will fight and continue to do so... This means you do not want to talk in Parliament, the temple of democracy, and want to give a political speech in Rajasthan while opening new medical colleges," he said, speaking to reporters outside Parliament.

Opposition members also skipped the meeting of the Rajya Sabha Business Advisory Committee (BAC), claiming that the exercise was pointless. The Rajya Sabha BAC has 11 members, including the Vice-President as its ex-officio chairman. Three MPs from the 26-member INDIA bloc are on the BAC committee: Jairam Ramesh (Congress), Misa Bharti (Rashtriya Janata Dal), and Derek O'Brien (Trinamool Congress). The Bharat Rashtra Samithi's Keshav Rao also gave the meeting a miss.

The members had also walked out of the last meeting, protesting the government's suggestion to allot two hours for the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023. Claiming that the Bill is brazenly against the federal structure of the Indian Constitution, the Opposition members said that it should not be moved at all.

Kuki-Zomi students of Manipur University seek shift to other institutions

Alisha Dutta
CHURACHANDPUR

In limbo: Kuki students protesting for not being able to attend classes in Manipur University. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Laljem Thanglalzem should be in class at Manipur University right now, studying for his Master's degree in English. But unlike his Meitei and Naga classmates, Mr. Thanglalzem hails from the Kuki-Zomi community; since ethnic violence tore through the State in early May, he has been unable to enter the Meitei-dominated Imphal valley where the Central university is located.

"Despite the political situation and without taking cognisance of the situation of students like us, who belong to the minority community, the college administration started their classes with Meitei and Naga students. This move has robbed us of our right to education," says Mr. Thanglalzem.

On Thursday, he participated in a protest at the Churachandpur Government College along with more than 20 other Kuki-Zomi students of Manipur University, appealing to the Union government and the University Grants Commission to transfer them to other Central universities in light of the unrest in the State.

The students, from Manipur University, demanded that their right to education be upheld by the government. The protest was against the injustice meted out to the Kuki-Zomi students who are at present unable to attend their classes in Manipur University, said a student who did not want to be named. Movement between the hills and the Imphal valley has been restricted since May 3; no person from the Kuki-Zomi community is entering the Imphal valley, and no Meitei is entering the hilly areas of Churachandpur and Kankgkopki, the student added.

'Assaulted and robbed'

Many students were assaulted and had to be rescued from violent Meitei mobs by the Assam rifles. "When the angry Meitei mob entered our university, they threatened and assaulted us first and then went on to burn and loot all our belongings," recalls Chinneilam Khongsai. Like many of her Kuki-Zomi classmates, the 24-year-old psychology student now has no access to her study materials.

'Women's Bill can be taken up only by consensus'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on Thursday informed the Rajya Sabha that the women's reservation Bill requires "careful consideration" on the basis of a consensus among all political parties before it is brought to Parliament.

In a written reply to a question, Mr. Meghwal said the Union government is committed to gender justice.

"The issue needs careful consideration on the basis of consensus among all political parties before a Bill for amendment in the Constitution is brought before Parliament," the Law Minister informed the House.

Passed in 2010

The women's reservation Bill or the Constitution (108th Amendment) Bill, which proposes 33 per cent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, was passed in March 2010 in the Rajya Sabha amid high drama but the 15th Lok Sabha could not pass the Bill.

'Red diary' will reveal 'dark deeds' of Gehlot govt.: PM

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

High hopes: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Union Ministers at the foundation stone laying of various projects in Sikar. ANI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday denounced the ruling Congress in Rajasthan, saying that its "dark deeds" had been recorded in a "red diary", which would ensure its defeat in the upcoming State Assembly election. Sacked Minister Rajendra Gudha had sought to table the diary in the Assembly earlier this week, alleging that it contained the details of questionable transactions by the Congress.

Addressing a BJP rally in Sikar, Mr. Modi said that the diary was a fresh product of the Congress's *loot ki dukaan* (shop of plunder), which would expose several party leaders and destroy their political career. The PM also said that a recruitment paper leak industry was thriving in the State.

CM responds

Responding to Mr. Modi's remarks, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said that the red diary was just "an imagination" and urged the Prime Minister to instead pay attention to "red LPG cylinders and red tomatoes".

There was a war of words between the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Mr. Gehlot over the latter's participation in Mr. Modi's official programme in Sikar.

Mr. Gehlot alleged that his pre-scheduled three-minute address in the event had been cancelled at the last moment, but the PMO said the Chief Minister's Office opted out.

Court stays ASI survey of Gyanvapi mosque till Aug. 3

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi

The Allahabad High Court on Thursday stayed the Archaeological Survey Of India (ASI) survey of the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi till August 3, the date on which the court will also pronounce its final verdict on the mosque dispute.

At the end of a three-day marathon hearing on a plea filed by the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee, challenging the Varanasi District Judge's July 21 order to conduct a survey of the mosque by ASI, the HC asked the government and counsel of the petitioners from all sides why this matter had been dragged for the past two years.

This is the third time this week that the ASI survey has been stayed. The Supreme Court had stayed the survey on July 24, giving the Gyanvapi mosque management "breathing time" to approach the HC. The HC too had stayed the same on July 26 and again on July 27.

Advocate S.F.A. Naqvi, appearing for the mosque committee, expressed his apprehension that the survey could damage the structure.

Advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain, representing some Hindu petitioners, told the court that Sanskrit shlokas, an old Jyotirlinga, and other Hindu artefacts were present inside the mosque.

Advocate Saurabh Tiwary, representing one of the petitioners Rakhi Singh, told the court that an ASI survey was necessary because the mosque commitee has insisted that the claim of a Hindu structure is based on imagination and has nothing to do with ground reality.

The Advocate-General, representing the State, argued that the local court's order to conduct an ASI survey was "very innocuous" and aims only to ascertain the truth.

He added that the State would ensure that there will not be any law-and-order problems.

9 acquitted in Manipur fake encounter case

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

A Manipur court has acquitted all nine policemen accused in an alleged fake encounter in 2009 due to lack of evidence.

The incident in Imphal had claimed the lives of a pregnant woman, and an alleged former extremist, Ch Sanjit Meitei. The police had alleged Mr. Sanjit fired at their commandos while trying to escape a frisking operation. When photographs of the incident appeared in a magazine, his mother lodged a first information report.

In an order issued on July 26, the sessions judge said the prosecution failed to prove the photographs were genuine.

APPEAL

Master Sagar Rajesh Lalwani, Son of Rajesh Lalwani, 10 years admitted in Christian Medical College is suffering from Thalassemia Major. This is a type of life threatening blood disorder. The best option for him would be to undergo allogeneic peripheral blood stem cell transplant (PBSCT). The estimated cost of Mud Transplant in this hospital is approximately **Rs. 35,00,000/-**.

Please send donation however small and save the boy. Cheque/D.D/M.O favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Sagar Rajesh Lalwani. **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487. State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, you can donate through Google Pay No. **9884607377**, UPI Id: **savepoorlives@oksbi**. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

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Ayes or nays? Unaligned parties weigh choice

YSRCP announces support for government in the no-confidence vote; 12 MPs of the BJD still awaiting decision, but sources say they are likely to abstain from voting; with no whip issued yet to 10 BSP MPs, they may go for a conscience vote; the numbers are clearly in favour of the ruling NDA

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

The no-confidence motion moved by the Congress against the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government at the Centre will see a neat division between the ruling alliance and the Opposition's Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA).

However, parties unaligned with either bloc – which account for 64 Lok Sabha seats – have taken a spectrum of stances on how they will vote.

The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), which is in power in Andhra Pradesh and has 22 Lok Sabha members, said it would support the government in the no-confidence vote, distancing itself from the Opposition bloc. "How does bringing a no-confidence motion help the country? Trying to weaken the Central government at this time of disturbance in Manipur and two hostile neighbours is not in the national interest. It is time to work together and not against each other. The YSRCP shall support the government and vote against the motion," the party's Rajya Sabha member Vijay Sai Reddy said in a tweet.

BJD, BSP undecided

Odisha's ruling party, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), also has a significant presence in the unaligned bloc, with 12 Lok Sabha members, but the party has not made its stance as clear as the YSR Congress Party.

"We are still waiting for a decision on the issue," said Pinaki Misra, the BJD's floor leader in the Lok Sabha. When the NDA government previously faced a trust vote in 2018, the BJD abstained from voting. Sources say that in all likelihood, this will be the party's course of action this time as well.

Also in the undecided category is the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) with 10 Lok Sabha members.

No whip has been issued as of now, but the uncertain equations between the party's high command and individual party MPs have made the situation ambiguous.

For example, BSP MP Ritesh Pandey is facing a political conundrum, as his father, a long-time associate of BSP leader Mayawati, switched sides to the Samajwadi Party (SP) during the previous Assembly election.

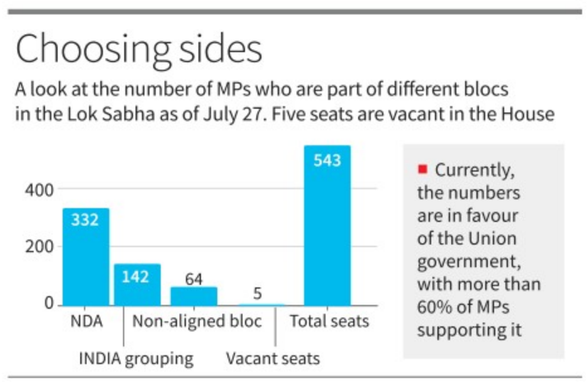
Amroha MP Kunwar Danish Ali on Thursday sharply criticised Union Minister Piyush Goyal's comments on the Opposition, clearly demonstrating where his sympathies lie. BSP MPs may well go for a conscience vote, going where their inclination – rather than the party whip – takes them.

TDP dilemma

The three MPs of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) are also in a cleft stick, ever since party leader and former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu made public his desire to rejoin the NDA meeting Union Home Minister and BJP leader Amit Shah in early June. Since then, the BJP has not said a word in public on a possible alliance with the TDP, and has appointed former Union Minister D. Purandareshwari, president of its State unit, indicating that it wants to drive a hard bargain during seat-sharing talks, if it happens at all.

Sources said the TDP may yet vote for the Union government.

As of now, the chips are heavily weighed in favour of the government, with the NDA holding 332 seats, the INDIA group 142 and the "unaligned bloc" accounting for the remaining 64. There are 538 Lok Sabha members, with five seats vacant. The vote of no-confidence will likely be taken up next week.



Cinematograph Bill aimed at curbing piracy passed by RS

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha on Thursday passed the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2023 that introduces stringent anti-piracy provisions, expanding the scope of the law from censorship to cover copyright also.

The Bill proposes a jail term of up to three years and a fine up to 5% of a film's production cost for persons who "use any audiovisual recording device in a place licensed to exhibit films with the intention of making or transmitting ... an infringing copy of" a film, or trying to do so.

The Bill seeks to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1952, which authorises the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) to require cuts in films and clear them for exhibition in cinemas and on television.

Union Minister Anurag Thakur said, "The government will not have revisional powers [over the CBFC's decisions] even after this Bill."

The Bill introduces three age ratings for films requiring adult supervision. Such films now get a U/A rating, but this has been split into U/A 7+, U/A 13+ and U/A 16+. Films rated for adults have largely been prohibited on television, following a 2004 Bombay High Court order. Broadcasters often cut films voluntarily, and reapply with the CBFC for a U/A rating. The Bill formalises this practice.

It will now have to be passed by the Lok Sabha.

Jaishankar's speech disrupted; Goyal and Adhir get into a bitter exchange

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday objected to Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury raising a point of order in the Lok Sabha after they got into a spat over Opposition members disrupting External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's statement on foreign policy engagements.

The exchange not only saw Mr. Chowdhury come to the Well but also led to a 20-minute adjournment.

After an initial disruption, when Lok Sabha proceedings resumed at 2 p.m., Mr. Jaishankar made a *suo motu* statement giving a detailed summary of foreign engagements of the President, Vice-President and Prime Minister over the past four months.

Shouting slogans

However, the Minister was barely audible as Opposition members trooped into the Well of the House and started shouting "INDIA, INDIA". They were protesting against the government for not agreeing to their demand that Prime Minister Narendra Modi speak on the floor of the House on the situation in Manipur.

After Mr. Jaishankar completed, Kiritbhai Solanki of the BJP allowed Mr. Chowdhury to raise a point of order. However, Mr. Goyal stood up and said that he would not allow the Congress leader to speak, as a mark if protest against the disruption of the Minister's statement. Mr. Chowdhury wanted to make the point about the no-trust motion .

Soon after, as a Bill came up for consideration, Mr. Goyal lashed out at the Opposition and referred to their dark clothes. His exact words were expunged.

The Lok Sabha passed two Bills before being adjourned. One was the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2023, to promote ease of business by decriminalising minor offences by amending 183 provisions in 42 Acts. The other was the Repealing and Amending Bill that does away with 76 archaic laws. Congress leader Manish Tewari said in a tweet that passing Bills without taking up the no-trust motion is a violation of rules.

Deadlock continues in Rajya Sabha, Opposition members stage a walkout

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha proceedings on Thursday were marked by sloganeering by members of both the Treasury benches and the Opposition. The Opposition members came dressed in black as a mark of protest.

They have been demanding a statement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the situation in Manipur. The Opposition raised objection when Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar omitted mentioning details of the notices moved by them under Rule 267. Ignoring the protests, he called External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar to make a statement on the latest developments in foreign policy. His statement was drowned in slogans raised by both sides.

Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge tried to attract Mr. Dhankhar's attention, but was ignored. For several minutes, Mr. Kharge stood at his seat, hoping to get an opportunity to speak. But with the sloganeering by the Treasury benches not relenting, he let out a loud "India" cry and the rest of the Opposition MPs joined in the chorus. Mr. Dhankhar adjourned the House for 15 minutes. The din continued when the House reconvened. The Chairman's repeated pleas were lost in the chaos. "I have never seen a ruling party obstructing the Opposition leader. Today, the government itself is obstructing the running of the House," Mr. Kharge said.

At 2 p.m, when the House reconvened, Deputy Chairman Harivansh invited Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur to move the Cinematography (Amendment) Bill. Mr. Kharge stood up to make a statement. Mr. Harivansh disallowed him from speaking on any issue other than the Bill. BJP members raised slogans when Mr. Kharge was speaking.

The Opposition members walked out of the Rajya Sabha, protesting against the decision to not allow Mr. Kharge to speak and denying an adjournment motion on Manipur.

The House discussed the Bill in the absence of Opposition members.

INDIA meet likely on August 25, 26

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The third meeting of the INDIA coalition is likely to be held on August 25-26 in Mumbai, sources said. Before that, parties may finalise a coordination committee with one member each from the Congress, Trinamool, DMK, AAP, JD(U), RJD, Shiv Sena (UBT), NCP, JMM, SP and CPI(M).

NOTICE FOR EXTENSION

PROCUREMENT OF IT EQUIPMENT UNDER NCB NO: HPKVN/COE/IT/01 AND RELATED ITEMS FOR CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (COE), WAKNAGHAT IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

Date: 28.07.2023 HPKVN/1(563)/2020- Procurement CoE Vol III

THE LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS FOR PROCUREMENT OF IT EQUIPMENT UNDER NCB NO: HPKVN/COE/IT/01 AND RELATED ITEMS FOR CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (COE), WAKNAGHAT IN HIMACHAL PRADESH FOR **28-07-2023** vide Advertisement Notice **HPKVN/1(563)/2020**- PROCUREMENT COE VOL III dated 22-06-2023 is further extended up to **07-08-2023**.

*For more details visit our website
www.hpkvn.in/notification/tenderandcircular

Proc-2704 ***Managing Director, HPKVN***

भारत सरकार / Government of India, अंतरिक्ष विभाग / Department of Space
भारतीय अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान/
Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology
[वि.अ.आयोग अधिनियम 1956 की धारा 3 के अधीन मानित विश्वविद्यालय घोषित]
[Declared as Deemed to be University under Sec.3 of the UGC Act 1956]
वलियमला पोस्ट / Valiamala PO, तिरुवनंतपुरम / Thiruvananthapuram -695 547
दूरभाष/ Phone: 0471-2568643/603, फैक्स/ Fax:0471-2568602 ई – मेल E-mail: recruitment@iist.ac.in

संविदा पदों पर भर्ती के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित / APPLICATION INVITED FOR CONTRACT POSITIONS

भारतीय अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईएसटी) निम्नलिखित संविदा पदों पर भर्ती के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है / Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) invites application for the following contract positions:

1. **वेधशाला प्रभारी सह लैब ट्यूटर/ Observatory in-charge cum Lab Tutor**
2. **खेलकूद सह शारीरिक स्वस्थता अनुदेशक / Sports-cum-Physical Fitness Instructor**

ऑनलाइन रूप से आवेदन प्रस्तुत करने की सुविधा 28.07.2023 से 21.08.2023 तक (1700 बजे तक) उपलब्ध होगी । / Facility for online submission of application will be available from 28.07.2023 to 21.08.2023 (upto 1700hrs)

विस्तृत विज्ञापन और ऑनलाइन आवेदन के लिए कृपया हमारी वेबसाइट https://www.iist.ac.in/career/3 देखें।
For detailed advertisement and online application, please visit our website https://www.iist.ac.in/career/3.
विज्ञापन सं/Advt. No: IIST/ Admn/RMT/07/04/2023, दि./dated 27.07.2023.

TNPL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Unit - 1 : Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist.
Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04324 - 277001 (10 Lines)
Unit - 2: Mondipatti - 621 306, Trichy District,
Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04332 - 261600

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
232413 003004	Conducting Detailed Feasibility Study and Preparation of Detailed Project Report for setting up Floating Solar Power Plant at TNPL Unit - I	11.08.2023
232413 002974	Procurement of Sodium Silicate - Alkaline for Unit - I	11.08.2023
232413 002973	Diesel Forklift truck - 3 tons with fork	14.08.2023
232423 001683	To run Defoamer for Wet end on package cost basis for Board machine of TNPL Unit - II	11.08.2023
232423 001684	AKD (ALKYL Ketene Dimer size) for Board Machine of TNPL Unit - II	12.08.2023
Email	232413003004 - pmd4@tnpl.co.in 232413002974 - purchase.rawmatl@tnpl.co.in 232413002973 - purchase.auto@tnpl.co.in 232423001683 & 1684 - purchaserm.u2@tnpl.co.in	

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions are available in tender document which can be downloaded from websites: **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/4075/Tender/2023 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, KHORDHA (R&B) CIRCLE, KHORDHA
WORKS DEPARTMENT
Tender Call Notice E-mail: rbcirclekhurda@gmail.com

Bid Identification No. CCE-Khordha (R&B) Circle - 08/2023-24 Memo No -1343 Dt.12.07.2023

The Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Buildings work as detailed in the table below:

1. Nature of Work : **Buildings Works**
2. No of Work : **7 Nos**
3. Tender Cost : **Rs.10000.00 (On-Line)**
4. Class of Contractor : **A Class**
5. Available of Bid document in Website : From **10.00 AM of Dt.31.07.2023** up to **05.00 PM of the Dt.19.08.2023 up to 5.00 PM**
6. Date of opening of Bid : **Dt 21.08.2023 at 11.30 AM**
7. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website:**https://tenderodisha.gov.in**. Any Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha
B-546 : OIPR-34127/11/0011/2324

Government of Odisha - "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
Bid Identification No.C.C.E.K.C., Keonjhar No. 17 / 2023-24
e-mail : ccekeonjharpwdcircle@gmail.com / sekcpwd_keonjhar@yahoo.com
Letter No.3638, dt.17.07.2023

1. No. of the work :- 2 number Road Works
2. Estimated cost :- Rs.102.83 Lakhs to Rs.458.83 Lakhs
3. Class of Contractor :- "B" Class & "A" Class
4. Period of completion :- 06 (Six) Calendar Months to 11 (Eleven) Calendar Months
5. Date and Time of availability of Bid document in the portal :- From 11.30 Hours of 29.07.2023 to 16.00 Hours of 14.08.2023.
6. Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal :- 16.00 Hours of 14.08.2023
7. Date of opening of Bid from Portal :- 11.30 Hours on 16.08.2023
8. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid :- Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar-758001.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http://tendersodisha.gov.in"

Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar.
B-548: OIPR-34033/11/0031/2324

कार्यालय जिला कलक्टर एवं अध्यक्ष
जिला गोपालन समिति टोंक

क्रमांक :- 4272 दिनांक :- 12-07-2023

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से ग्राम पंचायत गोशाला/ पशु आश्रय स्थल जन सहभागिता योजना अन्तर्गत ग्राम पंचायत गौशालाओं/ पशु आश्रय स्थल की स्थापना हेतु आधारभूत संरचनाओं का निर्माण कार्य करने एवं संचालन करने हेतु (अनुमानित लागत राशि रूपये 1.00 करोड़ प्रति ग्राम पंचायत गोशाला/ पशु आश्रय स्थल) कार्यकारी संस्थाओं का चयन करने के लिए इच्छुक पात्र सक्षम गैर सरकारी संस्था/ ग्राम पंचायत आदि से टोंक जिले की समस्त ग्राम पंचायतों (प्रति ग्राम पंचायत क्षेत्र 01) (सूची संलग्न) के लिए ऑफलाईन निविदा प्रस्ताव आमंत्रित किये जाते है। निविदा प्रस्ताव से संबंधित विवरण/ शर्तें वेबसाईट http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती है तथा निविदा प्रपत्र इसी वेबसाईट से नियत तिथि से डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है अथवा जिला संयुक्त निदेशक, पशुपालन विभाग, टोंक कार्यालय से निर्धारित शुल्क जमा करवाकर प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।

NIB. No. - ANH2324A0132, UBN. No. - ANH2324WSOB00130

विवरण	अनुमानित अधिकतम राशि	प्रतिभूति राशि	निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क	प्रस्तावित निविदा		
				निविदा फार्म डाउनलोड प्रारंभ करने/ प्राप्त करने की दिनांक व समय	ऑफलाइन निविदा प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम दिनांक व समय	निविदा खोलने की दिनांक व समय
पंचायत गौशालाओं/ पशु आश्रय स्थल की स्थापना हेतु आधारभूत संरचनाओं का निर्माण कार्य करने एवं संचालन करने हेतु कार्यकारी संस्थाओं का चयन करने के लिए इच्छुक पात्र सक्षम गैर सरकारी संस्था/ ग्राम पंचायत से निविदा प्रस्ताव बाबत्	अधिकतम राशि रूपये 1.00 करोड़ प्रति ग्राम पंचायत गोशाला/ पशु आश्रय स्थल	सभी आवेदक संस्थाओं को बोली प्रतिभूति घोषणा पत्र (Annexure-5) निर्धारित प्रपत्र में जमा की जानी आवश्यक होगी।	रू. 1000/-	दिनांक 12.07.2023 दोपहर 2.30 बजे से	दिनांक 31.7.2023 सायं 6.00 बजे तक	दिनांक 2.8.2023 समय 3.00 PM

राज्यपाल महोदय की आज्ञा से
संयुक्त निदेशक, पशुपालन विभाग एवं सचिव
जिला गोपालन समिति, टोंक

DIPR/C/10741/23

Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL)
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III,
Bhubaneswar-751 001
Tel.: (0674) 2380608; Website: www.osmcl.nic.in, Email: proc.osmcl.od@nic.in
Assuring Quality, Saving Lives

Notification No. 8149 /OSMCL/2023 Date : 27.07.2023

NOTICE INVITING E-Tender for SUPPLY, INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF BIOCHEMISTRY & MICROBIOLOGY EQUIPMENT ON RATE CONTRACT BASIS

Online Bids through **e-Tender portal (https://tendersodisha.gov.in)** are invited from eligible bidders for Supply, Installation & commissioning of Equipment as per the particulars mentioned below :

Sl.	Bid Reference No.	Item Name	Bid Document Cost inclusive of GST (Rs.)
1.	OSMCL/2023-24/ Biochem & Microbio_EQP/07	Tender for Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Biochemistry & Microbiology Equipment on Rate Contract basis.	Rs.5,900/-

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time	
1.	Date & time of release of bid	27/07/2023, 5 PM	
2.	Date & time of **Pre-Bid** Meeting	07/08/2023, 03.00 PM Venue : Conference Hall, Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd., In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar	
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time	End Date & Time
		10/08/2023, 3 PM	31/08/2023, 5 PM
4.	Date & time of online Technical Bid Opening	02/09/2023, 3 PM	
5.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders	

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document,Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: **www.osmcl.nic.in** and **https://tendersodisha.gov.in** . The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/- Managing Director, OSMCL
CAD-1466: OIPR-10112/11/0013/2324

By E-Mail/e-Despatch E_Mail ID:- serwcbaripada@gmail.com ; Ph.No. 06792-261343 / 261344
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA Gangraj, Baripada
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BARIPADA
"e" Procurement Notice for Bridge Work
Identification No.- Online Tender-Bridge N.C.B. No.290 for 2023-24
Letter No. 3474 / Date : 25.07.2023 //

1. Name of the Work : **Bridge work under Biju Setu Yojana in the District of Mayurbhanj.**
2. Total No. of Work : **01 No. (One)**
3. Estimated Cost : **Rs.728.45 lakhs** (approximately).
4. Eligible Class of Contractor : **As per Annexure**
5. Period of Completion : **As per Annexure**
6. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E.R.W.Circle,Baripada. Technical Bid	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E.R.W.Circle,Baripada. Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Baripada.	Bridge On-line N.C.B. No.290	Dt.03.08.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	Dt.18.08.2023 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.17.08.2023 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.19.08.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

- Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersorissa.gov.in
- Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the above e_tender website only.

Sd/- Er.S.K.Rout, Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Baripada.
O-480 : OIPR-25130/11/0016/2324

INBRIEF

Coast Guard rescues NIO vessel off Karwar coast

The Indian Coast Guard on Thursday averted a potential environmental disaster as it rescued the research ship of the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), *RV Sindhu Sadhana*, that suffered engine failure and was drifting close to Karwar, with 36 people onboard, including eight scientists. The vessel was drifting at a speed of 03 knots and was approximately 20 nautical miles from the land, the Coast Guard said in a statement. "The situation was critical as the NIO was carrying valuable scientific equipment and research data. Moreover, the proximity of the ship to the ecologically sensitive Karwar coastline posed an imminent threat of grounding, which could have resulted in a major oil spill."

Construction of roads under PMGSY is still pending: panel

Construction of more than 24,000 km of road length under the first phase of the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), which was launched in 2000, is pending, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Rural Development said in a report that was tabled in Parliament on July 27. The report has recorded the progress up to October 25, 2022. Under the second phase of the programme that began in 2013, construction of 1,562 km of road length was still incomplete, it said. The parliamentary panel, headed by DMK MP K. Kanimozhi, expressed "utmost concern" about the inordinate delay in the completion of targets under the two phases.

Promotion of IS activities: NIA arrests fifth accused in Pune

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday arrested a 43-year-old man from Pune for allegedly promoting activities of the terrorist organisation Islamic State (IS). He is the fifth accused to be arrested in a case registered by the NIA on June 28. Adnanali Sarkar was arrested following raids at Kondhwa in Pune. The NIA seized electronic gadgets and several documents related to the IS during searches at his house there. As per the NIA, the material exposed the accused's allegiance to the IS and his role in promoting the outfit's violent agenda by motivating and recruiting vulnerable youth.

Delhi and Bengal top list of rabies deaths, says Union govt.

Delhi saw the highest number of deaths due to rabies in the country in 2022, as per information given by the Health Ministry in the Lok Sabha this week. Delhi reported 48 fatalities and West Bengal 38, followed by Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra at 29 each. To a question by Dean Kuriakose, MP, on the fatalities from rabies caused by dog bite and the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the availability of anti-rabies vaccines in government hospitals in Kerala, Minister of State Satya Pal Singh Baghel said the Health Ministry had launched the National Rabies Control Programme for prevention and control of rabies.

'No President can retract climate change promise'

U.S. Special Envoy on Climate says America is committed to $100-bn annual fund for developing countries, blames Trump for delays; on G-20 meeting on climate change, he exudes confidence of a consensus statement, but wouldn't commit to U.S. compromising over language on the Ukraine war

INTERVIEW

John Kerry

Suhasini Haidar

No future American President can walk back from climate change commitments now, says U.S. Special Envoy John Kerry, blaming former U.S. President Donald Trump for walking out of the Paris Agreement, and rescinding climate financing offers. In an interview to *The Hindu*, Mr. Kerry says he is still hopeful of a consensus statement, but will not commit to the U.S. compromising over language on the Ukraine war in order to reach a consensus. Excerpts:

How far along are talks on climate change ahead of the G-20 summit, and since we are a couple of months away from the CoP28 meeting in Dubai?

On the CoP28, I think that the parties are working hard, meeting pretty regularly and a considerable amount of progress has been made. There are three outcomes that are already predetermined: we have to have a stocktaking, we have to have an adaptation report. And in addition, we have a loss and damage fund that has been created that has to now take shape. I think that India and the United States really have a synergy right now. Recognising that we need to push technologies, we need to reduce greenhouse gas pollution as rapidly as we can. We need to improve our supply chains, particularly, so that we're not being held hostage by any place in the world.

What is the U.S. willing to pay to the Loss and Damage Fund?

The reason we haven't seen it yet is that we had a President (Trump) who pulled out of the Paris agreement a number of years ago, and who didn't

SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

put any money into the Climate Fund. So when President (Joe) Biden became President, he began the first year of his presidency with Donald Trump's budget, not his own. He didn't get to do his own budget until last year, and now this is his second budget. And we do have money in there to be able to try to reach the $100 billion.

What about the future – If Mr. Trump or the Republicans return to power in next year's U.S. election and decide to walk out of whatever deal your government signs? Have any guardrails been put into place to ensure that the U.S. doesn't walk out as it did once from the Paris Agreement?

Well, there's no way to prehandicap the ability of any President to prohibit some particular action. But look I predicted that Joe Biden would be elected President last time, and I'm quite confident that he's going to be re-elected again, because of his outstanding legislative record. But I will say this. No, President, whatever party could come in now and stop what is happening. It's too big.

The G-20 joint communique is stuck over the language on Ukraine. Some G-20 countries suggest that G-7 countries should realise that the real priority right now is dealing with climate change and development issues and take a step back from its position on including Ukraine, so that a joint communique can be issued?

The climate crisis is a global crisis, even as Ukraine has its global components, because it's a reflection of international law. And that international law says that you don't invade nations simply to expand territory and kill people in ways that remind you of the worst of Second World War. So I think that there's a reason people are concerned about expressing something about the inappropriateness of an unprovoked invasion of another country...

Would you recommend pulling back on some of the Ukraine language, in order to bring out a joint statement?

I need to see the latest iteration of the language and make recommendations based on it. It's important for global meetings, and countries that they adhere to international standards, UN charter, Universal Declaration of Human Rights. And I think that in great democracies, particularly we should not shy away from speaking out. But I don't want to prejudge the outcome.

Over the past few years, we've seen the Indian government restrict foreign funding clearances for environmental NGOs to work in India. Have you discussed this during your meetings?

I know in India, you have a very, very active democracy, and you have a very hearty, ongoing, regular debate. I'm sure that activists here in India will continue to work that through.

Gig workers seek model law, rights and social security

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Coordination Committee on Gig Workers (NCCGW) on Thursday protested in front of Parliament, demanding a model law for the sector so that these workers get social and job security.

In their demand charter submitted to Union Labour Minister Bhupender Yadav, the NCCGW said about 12 million gig and platform workers are facing systematic exploitation, wage theft, illegal termination, mental torture and unfair labour practices at the hands of digital platforms. "These issues became unbearably severe during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, while we were providing essential services day in and day out to the country," it said.

The committee said the platforms do not recognise them as employees, yet they control every aspect of their work and exploit them without accountability or redressal mechanisms or minimum wages.

No accurate count of PwD population, says parliamentary panel

Standing committee asks officials to use every resource to correctly estimate specially-abled persons population until Census results are out

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The government says that data on PwDs are largely taken from the Census and NSS sample surveys. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Already under fire from rights activists and the Opposition over dropping disability-related questions in the sixth round of the National Family Health Survey, the Union government was on Thursday pulled up by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment for failing to accurately estimate the population of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

In its report on the action taken by the government on its recommendations made in March, the House panel, headed by BJP MP Rama Devi, said at least until the results of Census 2021 were made available, the government ought to use every resource it has to correctly estimate the population of PwDs in the country. This included collaborating with State governments, using data from surveys they are conducting, consulting experts, and sensitising surveyors of the Ministry of Statistics.

In its reply to the committee's recommendations, the government explained that data on PwDs are largely taken from the decennial Census conducted by the office of the Registrar-General and sample surveys on disability conducted by the National Sample Survey of the National Statistical Office.

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities went on to explain that the government had introduced a measure to provide unique disability ID cards to those covered under schemes meant for them.

At 120, Kerala reports most deaths from heatwave this year

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

States such as Bihar, Odisha saw fewer deaths due to heat.

As many as 120 people died in Kerala from heatwaves till June-end, the highest in the country, said a Health Ministry statement in the Lok Sabha this week. Kerala was followed by Gujarat with 35 deaths, Telangana 20, Maharashtra 14, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh 12 each, West Bengal 11 and Madhya Pradesh 10.

The States that saw fewer deaths this year till June were Himachal Pradesh (nine), Bihar (eight), Odisha (seven) and Andhra Pradesh (four). The national capital reported one death.

Replying to a question from member Ramalingam S. on details of the deaths due to heatwaves and remedial measures, Minister of State for Health Satya Pal Singh Baghel said that to ensure adequate preparedness at the level of the States and Union Territories, the Union Health Ministry had released guidelines to strengthen health systems for heat-related illnesses in April.

The States have been told to prepare their heat health sector plan with focus on awareness building, upgrade of health system capacity and strengthening of health infrastructure to treat heat-related illness and reduce the number of deaths. Till date, 28 States have completed their plans.

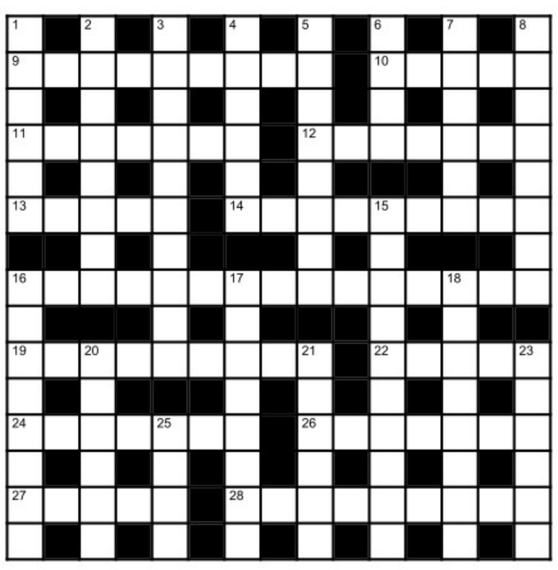
Also, the India Meteorological Department issues heatwave alerts and these are shared with the State-level nodal officers on climate change to ensure health facility preparedness and follow-up.

TH CROSSWORD + 13929

(set by Gussalufz)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

9 Person had made wife procrastinate (3,3,3)
10 A gangster addressed respectfully about concern (5)
11 Say, pugs running around about breakfast table items (7)
12 Positive or negative charges essentially found in nitrogen-ozone mixture (3-4)
13 Gussalufz's eating a bread (5)
14 Opponent of monarchy can put out quiet release once again (9)
16 One charging fee ordered to accept unknown currency (7,8)
19 Soviet leader consumes ecstasy on telly, oddly showing a liberal bent (9)
22 Killer's hidden message cracked by judge (5)
24 One skips, very put out by one throwing up (7)
26 Reportedly hold a grudge with judge (7)
27 Queen embraced by nobleman taking off royal uniform (5)
28 Solemn character close to Jon's extremely envious in Garfield (9)

Down

1 Photograph leg muscles showing sluggishness (6)
2 Fancier journal covering the full range across Indian Railways (8)
3 My junior editor arranged to leave door cracked for extra segment (6,4)
4 Search desperately for drink (6)
5 Six open women filed complaint (5-3)
6 Wife enters to criticize man (4)
7 Bird cycling around monkey and rabbit (6)
8 A cow's output is in this bubbly energy drink (8)
15 Barbed wired fences shine limitlessly (conclusion of inmates in prison) (6,4)
16 Stumble badly and fail while dumping one's beau (4,4)
17 Truant is in trouble as he likes to be naked (8)
18 +1 is an erotica author, inspiring web poet (8)
20 Suffer through joke about seal (4,2)
21 Bird regurgitated many half-eaten bugs (6)
23 Check support for member — no minorities, for starters (6)
25 Powder cask, say (4)

SUDOKU

	1			5	2	7		
	6					8		
7							3	4
6	2	4			8		5	
			9		5			
	9		2			6	1	8
2	8							1
		9					7	
		7	6	2			8	

No.SS5871 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

H	A	S	H	T	A	G		M	E	N	A	C	E	D
A		H		R		R		A		E		A		E
M	E	A	S	U	R	E		I	N	W	A	R	D	S
B		M		E		N		Z		L		I		E
U	P	P	E	R	C	A	S	E		A	M	B	E	R
R		O				D				B		O		V
G	R	O	W	N		I	N	T	R	O	D	U	C	E
				A		N		E		U				
G	O	V	E	R	N	E	S	S		R	E	C	A	P
O		E		C				T				H		L
S	C	I	F	I		M	O	M	E	N	T	A	R	Y
S		N		S		I		A		A		N		W
I	L	L	U	S	E	D		T	O	B	A	C	C	O
P		E		U		D		C		O		E		O
S	A	T	I	S	F	Y		H	O	B	B	L	E	D

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	9	6	8	1	3	4	5	7
3	4	8	9	7	5	1	2	6
7	5	1	2	6	4	8	9	3
6	1	7	4	3	2	5	8	9
5	8	2	6	9	7	3	4	1
4	3	9	1	5	8	6	7	2
9	2	3	5	4	6	7	1	8
1	7	5	3	8	9	2	6	4
8	6	4	7	2	1	9	3	5

FAITH

Lessons from Hanuman

When Hanuman embarked on his mission to find Sita in Lanka, doubt clouded his mind. Cursed by powerful sages to forget his powers when they were most needed, he felt like an imposter facing the daunting task ahead. He thought crossing the ocean was beyond his capabilities. The weight of others' expectations to inspire and lead left him questioning his abilities.

Similarly, we often find ourselves in the same situation when confronting challenging tasks. Despite others believing in us, we fear we have fooled them and we are not as capable as they think. The line between expressing talent and appearing arrogant becomes blurred, pushing us to be overly humble, erasing our self-belief. Especially in our culture, we are taught not to take credit for our success but take responsibility for our failures, leaving us feeling like imposters even when we have toiled hard to achieve goals. I remember clearing the civil services exam in my second attempt. However, I could not pinpoint the exact changes that led to this outcome compared with my first attempt. Subsequently, I succeeded two more times, but the imposter feeling persisted. Taking responsibility for failures was natural, but claiming credit for success felt daunting, as it relied on factors beyond my control.

In this modern world, acknowledging our strengths becomes essential to bolster our self-belief. Surrounding ourselves with encouraging friends and well-wishers, like Jambavan, serves as a valuable reminder of our capabilities and achievements, propelling us to overcome difficulties just as Hanuman crossed the ocean in one leap.

Ravi Singh

JERUSALEM

Israeli military fire kills 14-year-old in West Bank, say Palestinians

AFP

Israeli military fire killed a 14-year-old Palestinian boy in the occupied West Bank, Palestinian Health officials said on Thursday, as an ultranationalist Israeli Cabinet minister, Itamar Ben-Gvir, visited a sensitive Jerusalem holy site that has been a frequent flashpoint for violence between Israel and the Palestinians. AP

KUWAIT

Kuwait hangs five, including a 2015 mosque bombing convict

FILE PHOTO

Kuwait put to death five people on Thursday, including a man convicted of involvement in a 2015 Islamic State group suicide bombing that killed 26 people, the Public Prosecution said. The multiple executions in the Gulf emirate — relatively rare compared to Saudi Arabia — are the first since November last year. AFP

BRUSSELS

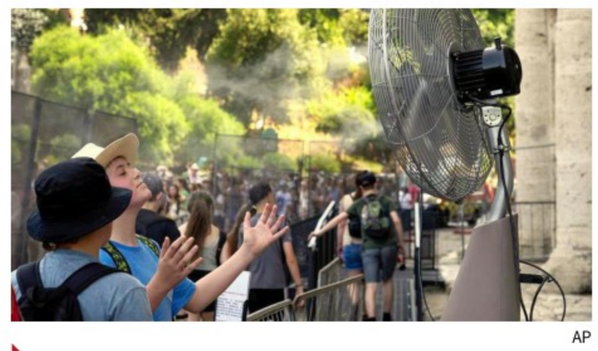
EU opens probe into Microsoft over bundling Teams with Office

AP

The European Commission on Thursday announced an antitrust probe into Microsoft bundling its Teams communications app with its popular Office suite, on concerns the firm could be cutting out competitors. The investigation is to see whether the U.S. software giant is "abusing and defending its market position". AFP

UNITED NATIONS

'Era of global boiling' has arrived, warns UN chief Antonio Guterres



AP

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned on Thursday that the era of global warming has ended and "the era of global boiling has arrived" after scientists said July was the world's hottest month on record. "Climate change is here. It is terrifying. And it is just the beginning," Mr. Guterres told reporters. REUTERS

Mutinous soldiers claim to have ousted Niger President

The defiant soldiers say all institutions had been suspended and security forces were managing the situation; government says it will never accept the military rule and calls for public protest

Associated Press
NIAMEY

People in Niger awoke to a divided country on Thursday after mutinous soldiers claimed to have ousted the President. But the government said it will never accept their rule and has called for the population to reject it.

"There was an attempted coup, but of course we cannot accept it," Minister of Foreign Affairs Hassoumi Massoudou told news network *France 24* in an interview on Thursday.

"We call on all Nigerien democratic patriots to stand up as one to say no to this factious action that tends to set us back decades and block the progress of our country," he said. He also called for the President's unconditional release and said talks were ongoing.

President Mohamed Bazoum was elected in 2021 in the West African nation's first peaceful, democratic transfer of power since its independence from France in 1960. He thwarted a coup attempt days before he was sworn in.

Threats to his leadership undermine the West's efforts to stabilise Africa's Sahel region, which has been overrun with coups in recent years. Mali and Burkina Faso have had four coups since 2020, and both are being overrun by extremists linked to al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group.

Split backing: Supporters of the Nigerien security forces gather outside the National Assembly in Niamey on Thursday. AFP

On Wednesday morning, members of the presidential guard surrounded the house of Mr. Bazoum with him and his wife inside and detained him.

The mutinous soldiers, who call themselves the National Council for the Safeguarding of the Country, took to state television and announced they had seized control because of the deteriorating security and bad economic and social governance of the nation's 25 million people.

They said all institutions had been suspended and security forces were managing the situation, and urged external partners not to interfere. The attempted coup was allegedly sparked by the head of the presidential guard, General Tchiani, who the President had planned to relieve from his position, Niger analysts say.

Support for Bazoum

According to someone close to the President who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak about the situation, the President has not and will not resign and is safe in his residence.

"The hard-won achievements will be safeguarded. All Nigeriens who love democracy and freedom will see to it," Mr. Bazoum tweeted early Thursday morning. It's unclear how much support the coup leaders have from the rest of the security forces, but support for Mr. Bazoum among the population and political parties appears strong. In a statement on Wednesday, a group of Nigerien political groups said the situation was "suicidal and anti-republican madness".

In an interview in December, Mr. Bazoum said that while there's always the possibility of a coup when Armies fail to secure a nation against extremists, Niger had the situation under control.

For many Western countries, Niger was seen as the last hope for partnership in the region with anti-French sentiment that led to a pivot from French forces in Mali to the Russian mercenary group Wagner.

Meanwhile, White House spokesperson Karine Jean-Pierre said on Thursday that the U.S. has not seen any credible indications of involvement by Russia, or Wagner, in the coup.

Kyiv launches a major push against Russian forces

Associated Press
KYIV

Ukraine has launched a major push to dislodge Russian forces from the country's southeast as part of its weeks-long counteroffensive, committing thousands of troops to the battle, according to Western and Ukrainian officials and analysts.

The surge in troops and firepower has been centred on the region of Zaporizhzhia, a Western official said late Wednesday.

The counteroffensive is a massive operation, which likely was months in preparation. Military planners need to orchestrate supplies of ammunition, food, and medical supplies.

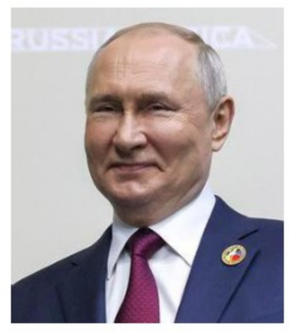
Russia will try to avert a food crisis: Putin at summit

Associated Press
ST. PETERSBURG

Russian President Vladimir Putin told leaders and officials from most African countries on Thursday that his nation is making full efforts to avert a global food crisis despite concerns that its withdrawal from a deal allowing grain shipments from Ukraine will cause shortages and price spikes.

He spoke at the opening session of a two-day Russia-Africa summit attended by a sharply lower number of African heads of state and government compared with a previous summit in 2019.

"Our country will continue supporting needy states and regions, in particular, with its humanitarian deliveries. We seek to actively participate in building a fairer system of distribution of resources. We are taking maximum efforts to avert a global food crisis," Mr. Putin said.



Vladimir Putin

"I have already said that our country can replace Ukrainian grain, both on a commercial basis and as grant aid to the neediest African countries, more so since we expect another record harvest this year," he said.

Promising Russian food exports to Africa is key to Mr. Putin's stated goal of using the summit to bolster ties with a continent of 1.3 billion people that is increasingly assertive on the global stage.

Mr. Putin also announced other moves to deepen relations with Africa, including increased enrolment of African students in Russian universities, the opening of Russian state news media bureaus in many African countries and a proposed "information space in Russia and Africa, within which unbiased information about events taking place in the world will be broadcast to Russian and African audiences."

Pakistan granted rollover on $2.4-bn Chinese loan

Agence France-Presse
KARACHI

China has granted Pakistan a two-year rollover on a $2.4-billion loan, Islamabad said on Thursday, giving the debt-saddled nation breathing space in its balance-of-payments crisis. Soaring inflation, shrinking dollar reserves and crippling foreign debt led Pakistan to the brink of default before a pivotal $3 billion IMF bailout was granted earlier this month.

Securing supplemental backing from friendly nations was a key condition for the global lender granting further support to Pakistan.

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said China's EXIM Bank had rolled over for two years principal amounts on twin debts of $1.2 billion that had been due in the fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25.

"Pakistan will make interest payments only," Mr. Dar said on Twitter, recently renamed "X".

The United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia topped up Pakistan's forex reserves by $3 billion before the IMF standby deal was confirmed.

State forex reserves have rebounded to $8.7 billion after reaching such a low ebb that imports were heavily restricted and local industry was hobbled.

The rollover sent the Pakistan Stock Exchange's benchmark index to a 20-month high after a prolonged bearish trend.

Sinéad O'Connor

Sinéad O'Connor, a troubled Irish icon

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Sinéad O'Connor, who died on Wednesday aged 56, will forever be remembered as the Irish singer who made Prince's "Nothing Compares 2 U" her own, turning it into an anthem for the brokenhearted. Staring at the camera, her mesmerising elfin features accentuated by a distinctive shaven head, her real tears powerfully embodied a life and soul stripped bare.

O'Connor developed a name for inflammatory outbursts and caused an international controversy in a 1992 performance on U.S. television show *Saturday Night Live*. While performing Bob Marley's "War", O'Connor sang the words "child abuse" before tearing up a picture of Pope John Paul II and declaring "Fight the real enemy!" The abuse of children by Catholic priests in Ireland was not yet widely known and O'Connor's gesture sparked widespread criticism.

The musician converted to Islam and changed her name to Shuhada' Sadaqat in 2018. In 2022, her son Shane died from suicide aged 17.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 128,129/SE/PHC/ TSR/2023-24, **1.**Amrut 2.0 Improvements to AUWSS at Chalakudy Municipality. **2.**JJM – CWPM from Thiruvilwamala Sump to Chepakunnu and Kerakunnu tanks, **EMD :** Rs. 2,00,000/-, **Tender fee :** Rs. 11800/-, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 09-08-2023 03:00:pm, **Phone :** 0487-2423230.
Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer,
KWA-JB-GL-6-857-2023-24 PH Circle, Thrissur

विशाखापट्टणम पोर्ट प्राधिकरण
VISAKHAPATNAM PORT AUTHORITY
VISAKHAPATNAM
ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 45001
CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
VPA invites applications from interested parties(EOI) for better utilisation of the land measuring **288.12 Acres.** at Mulakuddu Village of Bheemili Mandal belonging to VPA. Further details they may visit VPA port website
www.vizagport.com
Secretary

RajCOMP Info Services Limited (RISL)
C-Block, 1st Floor, Yojana Bhawan, Tilak Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur.
RISL invites ebids from the eligible bidders for the following:

NIB No./ Date/ Unique bid no.	Particulars	Estimated Cost/EMD	Start of sale /Last date
3053/ 24.07.2023 (RIS2324SLOB 00036)	Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection for System Integrator for e-Bazaar 2.0 in Rajasthan including Operations & Maintenance with related services for a Period of Three Years based on Open Competitive Bidding through e-Procurement/e-Tender	Rs. 10.00 Cr/ Rs. 20 Lacs	24.07.2023 18.08.2023

Details can be seen on the websites **http://risl.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in**, **http://doitc.rajasthan.gov.in**. Bids are to be submitted through **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**.
Raj.Samwad/C/23/6433 Additional Director

BENGALURU METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Central Offices: K.H. Road, Shantinagar, Bengaluru-560 027.
No: BMTC/CO/COSP/04/2023-24 Date: 26.07.2023
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Tender is invited through Karnataka Public Procurement portal for the following Items.

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Description	Last date for bid submission in Karnataka Public procurement portal
Regular Tender			
1	BMTC/2023-24/ IND0010	Procurement of Tabs	09.08.2023 at 14.30 Hrs
2	BMTC/2023-24/ IND0011	Procurement of Vehicle Washing Machine Brush Pads	21.08.2023 at 14.30 Hrs
3	BMTC/2023-24/ IND0012	Procurement of Perforated Polythene Paper	21.08.2023 at 14.30 Hrs

*For more details visit **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- CONTROLLER OF STORES AND PURCHASES (Tender Inviting Authority)

Sundram Fasteners Limited
CIN: L35999TN1962PLC004943
Registered & Corporate Office: 98-A, VII Floor, Dr Radhakrishnan Salai, Mylapore, Chennai - 600 004
Tel: +91 - 44 - 28478500 | Fax: 91 - 44 - 28478510
Email: investorshelpdesk@sfl.co.in | Website: www.sundram.com

STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

(₹ in Crores)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Standalone			Consolidated		
		Quarter ended		Year ended	Quarter ended		Year ended
		30.06.2023	30.06.2022	31.03.2023	30.06.2023	30.06.2022	31.03.2023
		(Unaudited)		(Audited)	(Unaudited)		(Audited)
1	Total Revenue from Operations	1,215.65	1,239.64	4,919.43	1,410.76	1,410.12	5,662.75
2	Net Profit for the period (before tax and exceptional items)	150.59	171.09	615.93	169.39	179.57	660.66
3	Net Profit for the period (before tax)	150.59	171.09	615.93	169.39	179.57	660.66
4	Net Profit for the period (after tax)	112.53	130.11	464.40	128.74	138.03	500.35
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	123.03	130.86	480.88	127.34	136.96	517.42
6	Equity Share Capital (Face Value of Re 1/- each fully paid up)	21.01	21.01	21.01	21.01	21.01	21.01
7	Earnings Per Share (EPS) (for continuing and discontinued operations) (Face value of Re 1/- each) (not annualised) (in Rs.)						
	(a) Basic	5.36	6.19	22.10*	6.07	6.47	23.54*
	(b) Diluted	5.36	6.19	22.10*	6.07	6.47	23.54*

* Annualised

Notes:

1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of the standalone and consolidated financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites, www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com and on the Company's website www.sundram.com.

2 The Statutory Auditors have carried out a limited review for the quarter ended June 30, 2023 and have issued an unmodified report thereon.

Place : Chennai
Date : July 27, 2023

For Sundram Fasteners Limited
Sd/-
Chairman

INBRIEF

LIC introduces Jeevan Kiran plan with return of premium

LIC on Thursday introduced Jeevan Kiran, a plan that offers life cover with return of premium. A non-linked, non-participating, individual, savings, life insurance plan, it is for those aged 18-65 and desiring high life cover at a reasonable cost. On maturity, the plan allows refund of total premiums/single premium paid, excluding any extra premium, any rider premium and taxes paid, if the insured person is surviving on the date of maturity and the policy is in force.

Laurus Labs' Q1 net profit slumps 90% on lower sales

Drugmaker Laurus Labs reported consolidated net profit slumped 90% year-on-year to nearly ₹25 crore for the quarter ended June on the back of lower sales. Revenue from operations declined 23% to almost ₹1,182 crore (₹1,539 crore). Lower sales, operational deleverage and elevated expenses impacted the results, said founder and chief executive officer Satyanarayana Chava. Revenue from the CDMO-Synthesis segment declined 57% to ₹250 crore.

Fedbank Financial Services files DRHP with SEBI for IPO

Fedbank Financial Services Ltd., a unit of Federal Bank, has filed a Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with SEBI for an IPO. FFSL plans to raise funds through offer of equity shares comprising fresh issue of up to ₹750 crore and offer-for-sale aggregating up to 7,03,23,408 equity shares by promoter shareholder and other shareholder. The company proposes to utilise a large part of the net proceeds towards augmenting Tier-1 capital base to meet future capital requirements.

Govt. may extend PLI scheme to chemicals, petrochemicals

Nirmala Sitharaman urges industry to reduce its reliance on imports of chemicals that can be made in India; Industry should adopt new technology to benefit from global players, she adds

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Large global investors like BASF, Adnoc, Rosneft and Aramco are looking for joint venture partners to invest in India, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman hinted on Thursday, and said the government is open to introducing a production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for investments in the chemicals and petrochemicals sectors.

Urging industry to reduce its reliance on imports of chemicals that can be made in India, Ms. Sitharaman also emphasised the need to step up their adoption of newer technologies, with an eye on sustainability and circularity, for any benefits to accrue from potential partnerships with global players.

"Unless you're able to bring in that element when becoming a partner with these global big investors, India is not going to benefit," Ms. Sitharaman said.

"I do not want to be a pessimist or a naysayer, but we really cannot have joint ventures, even with a global player, when our standards in terms of sustainability are not really up to the global mark or the commitment India has given as NDC--nationally determined commitments," the Minister added.

"We are in favour of making India a manufacturing hub and therefore, of course, we will consider the PLI also for the chemical and petrochemical sectors," Ms. Sitharaman said.

More incentives

The Centre could offer incentives to boost investments in the chemicals and petrochemicals sectors

- PLI may be expanded in light of large foreign investors looking to set up joint ventures in India
- India cannot benefit unless Indian industry partners with global companies entering India, the FM adds
- The FM notes that domestic sustainability standards need to be raised to meet global benchmarks

'Geopolitical, geoeconomic volatility pose severe risks'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Volatility in geoeconomic and geopolitical relations between major economies is likely to result in global upheavals over the next six months, a new survey showed on Thursday.

According to the survey of the World Economic Forum's Chief Risks Officers community, more than 85% CROs expect continued volatility in economic and financial conditions across major economies.

SFL Q1 net slips 14%, U.S. slowdown bites

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Sundram Fasteners Ltd. (SFL) reported first-quarter standalone net profit slid 13.5% year-on-year to ₹112.53 crore as the slowdown in the U.S. market crimped export sales.

Revenue from operations was a marginal 1.9% lower at ₹1,215.65 crore, compared with ₹1,239.64 crore in the year-earlier period, the diversified engineering company said in a press release.

Exports fell 14% to ₹348 crore, as the slowdown in the U.S. impacted sales. Domestic sales, however, grew by almost 3% to ₹821.97 crore.

Coping with headwinds

"Despite headwinds in the export markets, the company has maintained its EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation) margin at 16.2%," SFL said in the release.

"The softening of commodity prices and favourable product mix has resulted in improvement in gross margin from 54.5% to 55.8%," it added.

Indian Bank Q1 net rises 41% to ₹1,709 crore on income

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Indian Bank reported standalone net profit for the June quarter rose 41% y-o-y to ₹1,709 crore on account of an increase in net interest and other income and better asset quality.

Total income rose to ₹14,759 crore (₹11,758 crore) while net interest income grew 26% to ₹5,703 crore. Gross non-performing assets slid by 266 basis points to 5.47% and net NPAs by 142 bps to 0.70%.

U.S. Q2 growth unexpectedly accelerates to 2.4% despite Fed rate hikes

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

The U.S. economy surprisingly accelerated to a 2.4% annual growth rate from April through June, showing continued resilience in the face of steadily higher interest rates resulting from the Federal Reserve's 16-month-long fight to bring down inflation.

The Commerce Department's estimate on Thursday indicated that gross domestic product picked up from the first quarter's 2% growth rate. The expansion was well above the 1.5% rate economists had forecast.

Driving the growth was a burst of business investment, which surged 5.7%, the fastest pace since late 2021. Companies plowed more money into factories and equipment. Increased spending by State and local governments also helped fuel the expansion.

Consumer spending was also solid, though it slowed to a 1.6% annual rate from a robust 4.2% pace in the first quarter.

"This is a strong report, confirming that this economy continues to largely shrug off the Fed's aggressive rate increases and tightening credit conditions," said Olu Sonola, head of U.S. economics at Fitch Ratings.

"The bottom line is that the U.S. economy is still growing above trend, and the Fed will be wondering if they need to do more to slow this economy."

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	66,267	-0.66
US Dollar	81.92	0.10
Gold	60,600	0.41
Brent oil	83.95	0.59

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2428.40	-42.35
Adani Ports	748.75	-3.90
Apollo Hosp	5215.50	59.75
Asian Paints	3369.40	-3.60
Axis Bank	959.90	-16.90
Bajaj Auto	4851.00	-19.45
Bajaj Finserv	1614.55	-11.90
Bajaj Finance	7284.10	-149.05
Bharti Airtel	895.15	5.75
BPCL	379.25	-7.95
Britannia Ind	4873.40	-110.20
Cipla	1171.45	102.95
Coal India	229.05	-1.45
Divis Lab	3741.90	61.45
Dr Reddys Lab	5507.00	31.35
Dummy - Jio Financial Services Ltd.	261.85	0.00
Eicher Motors	3327.90	-25.75
Grasim Ind	1822.50	-16.60
HCL Tech	1117.35	2.35
HDFC Bank	1673.15	-17.55
HDFC Life	662.45	3.85
Hero MotoCorp	3136.95	-8.75
Hindalco	451.40	2.40
Hind Unilever	2569.85	-13.45
ICICI Bank	990.25	-6.20
IndusInd Bank	1415.60	-12.10
Infosys	1353.15	4.30
ITC	465.05	-7.20
JSW Steel	793.75	-11.70
Kotak Bank	1873.75	-21.55
L&T	2660.20	13.95
LTIMindtree Ltd.	4862.45	1.90
M&M	1447.40	-97.45
Maruti Suzuki	9753.60	-2.75
NestleIndia	22325.30	-474.60
NTPC	201.95	0.35
ONGC	171.00	-1.95
PowerGrid Corp	250.70	-0.30
Reliance Ind	2502.70	-23.50
SBI Life	1296.50	3.85
State Bank	616.55	1.40
Sun Pharma	1134.95	22.95
TataConsumerProduct	850.05	-23.85
Tata Motors	643.70	2.60
Tata Steel	119.80	-0.15
TCS	3396.90	8.60
Tech Mahindra	1099.90	-43.30
Titan	3002.10	-6.25
UltraTech Cement	8288.25	-64.10
UPL	626.75	-5.15
Wipro	399.95	-2.80

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on July 27

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	81.73	82.05
Euro	91.07	91.42
British Pound	105.97	106.39
Japanese Yen (100)	58.31	58.54
Chinese Yuan	11.44	11.48
Swiss Franc	95.50	95.88
Singapore Dollar	61.76	62.01
Canadian Dollar	62.01	62.26
Malaysian Ringitt	18.08	18.16
Australian Dollar	55.56	55.78

Source:Indian Bank

CG Power Q1 net rises 57% to ₹204 cr. as volume grows

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

CG Power and Industrial Solutions Ltd. reported consolidated net profit for the June quarter rose 57% from the year-earlier period to ₹204 crore on volume growth.

Revenue from operations climbed by 14% to ₹1,874 crore. The profit included an exceptional net gain on dissolution of CG Power Solutions U.K. Ltd., the company said.

On a standalone basis, CG Power had an order in take of ₹2,514 crore, which was higher by 47%. Unexecuted order book stood at ₹4,909 crore (standalone) and ₹136 crore of Drives and Automation, Europe (consolidated).

Coromandel Q1 net declines marginally on lower income

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Murugappa Group company Coromandel International posted a consolidated net profit of ₹494 crore for the quarter ended June, a decline of 1% from ₹499 crore in the year-earlier period.

Total income marginally declined to ₹5,738 crore (₹5,783 crore).

"Coromandel posted a steady performance in Q1, registering strong volume growth and sustaining its profitability," Executive Vice Chairman Arun Alagappan said. "This despite challenging business environment as delayed monsoon onset impacted crop sowing and agri-input applications," he added.

Arun Alagappan

Nutrient and allied businesses' performance was led by a robust 18% sales volume growth in phosphatic fertilisers.

The crop protection segment's performance during the quarter was affected by industry headwinds and sub-normal rainfall in its key markets, the company said.

Shriram Finance Q1 net up 25% to ₹1,675 crore

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Shriram Finance Ltd. (formerly known as Shriram Transport Finance Co. Ltd.) reported standalone net profit for the June quarter rose by 25% over the earlier period to ₹1,675 crore.

Net Interest Income increased by 11% to ₹4,435.27 crore, it said in a statement. Total Assets under Management grew to ₹1,93,215 crore from ₹1,62,970 crore.

On Thursday, the board approved a periodical resource mobilisation plan for the issuance of securities viz. debentures, bonds on private placement basis from August to October of 2023.

IHCL Q1 net profit surges 31% to ₹222 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Indian Hotels Company Ltd. (IHCL) of the Tata Group reported first-quarter consolidated net profit rose 31% to ₹222 crore from ₹170 crore in the year-earlier period owing to strong focus on profitability and cash flow management.

Revenue for the quarter increased 17% to a record ₹1.516 crore compared with ₹1,293 crore in the year-earlier period backed by strong demand for hotel rooms, primarily from domestic tourists and business travellers.

"IHCL ended the first quarter with a strong performance led by a double-digit revenue growth," said MD & CEO Puneet Chhatwal. "The outlook for the upcoming quarters remains strong with the pace of demand driven by domestic consumption momentum, global events, and revival of international arrivals," he added. During Q1 IHCL signed up for 11 hotels and opened 5 hotels across all its brands.

Puneet Chhatwal

'Relaxing norms for biosimilars risks safety'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

A section of scientists and doctors has urged the Union Health Ministry and Department of Biotechnology not to ease norms for biosimilars (biological drug similar to an approved biological medicine) as any such loosening, in a bid to make the drug affordable, risks compromising patient safety.

"Even when regulations are in place, about 3% of drugs are found to be of non-standard quality and the figure is higher (10%) for drugs supplied to the public sector," said Amitav Banerjee, Professor, Community Medicine and a clinical epidemiologist, referring to demands from some NGOs to ease guidelines for biosimilars with a view to helping lower the cost of such medicines.

"Throwing the market open without proper quality checks for biosimilars, particularly in a country with a poorly functioning pharmacovigilance system to closely monitor long-term adverse events, will be hazardous," Dr. Banerjee cautioned.

"Regulators need to keep a delicate balance between affordability and patient safety," noted Anurag S. Rathore, Professor Biopharmaceutical Technology, IIT-Delhi, adding clinical trials were a must.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Kerala State IT Infrastructure Limited (KSITIL) invites proposals under two cover system (Techno-commercial and financial) from eligible contractors for the following work.

Name of Work: Designing and Construction of Clean Rooms for India Innovation Centre for Graphene at Technology Innovation Zone, Kalamassery, Kochi, Kerala.

Last date for submission of document: 3:00 pm on 11/09/2023

RFP documents and schedule may be downloaded from the e-GP website **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**

Date: 28/07/2023 **Managing Director**
Trivandrum **Kerala State IT Infrastructure Limited**

GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER WATER RESOURCES ZONE JAIPUR

No. 1949 Date: 20/07/23

Short Term E-NIB No- 10/2023-24

On behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan, bid for the work "Construction of Anicut at Banas River Near Village Bhukha GP Bhukha Tehsil Malarna Doongar District Sawai Madhopur" Rs 5017.53 Lac" is invited from eligible bidders upto 06:00 PM on dated 07.08.2023 and technical bid will be opened on dated 08.08.2023 at 3:00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state.

NIB no: WRD2324A0272
UBN no: WRD2324WLOB00818

Additional Chief Engineer
Water Resources Zone
Jaipur

DIPR/C/10803

INTERNATIONAL ADVANCED RESEARCH CENTRE FOR POWDER METALLURGY AND NEW MATERIALS (ARCI)
(An autonomous Research & Development Centre of Department of Science & Technology, Government of India)
P.O. Balapur, Hyderabad - 600 006, Telangana

Advt. No.ARCI/TE/1/2023

TENDER ENQUIRY NO. SC20210217/WO DATED:28.07 2023

Director, ARCI invites sealed tenders in two bid system from the eligible service providers for the "Hospitality/Catering Service for ARCI Canteen (Food and Manpower) for a period of ONE YEAR".

Cost of Tender Fee	EMO
INR 1,770/- (1500+ 18% GST)	NR 1,38,000/-

Above tender document can be downloaded from our website **http:/www.arctres.in** and CPP portal **http://www.eprocuregov.in/epublish/app** (CPPP Tender ID reference No 2023_MST_719203_1) from 28.07.2023.

LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE TENDERS 22/08/2023 AT 15.30 HRS.

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED
Notice Inviting Bid

(A) Bid for Construction of various transmission elements(400/220/33 KV,1x500 MVA Transformer Augmentation at 400 KV GSS Merta , 220 kV Substation with associated Lines & bays at Birloka (Distt.-Nagaur) and 220 kV Substation with associated Lines & bays at Tonk in Rajasthan(on turnkey basis) including survey, supply of all Equipments/Materials, Erection (including civil works), Testing and Commissioning under RVPN/EHV/SPV/TN-4(UBN: VPN2324WLOB01068) are invited from interested bidders up to 03:00 PM on 29.08.23.

(B) Bid for Construction of various transmission elements(400 /220/33 KV, 1x500 MVA Transformer Augmentation at 400 KV GSS AJMER with associated works and 220 kV Substation with associated Lines & Bays at Menar (District-Udaipur) in Rajasthan (on turnkey basis) including survey, supply of all Equipments/Materials, Erection (including civil works), Testing and Commissioning under RVPN/EHV/SPV/TN-5 (UBN: VPN2324WLOB01067) are invited from interested bidders up to 03:00 PM on 29.08.2023.

(C) Bid for Construction of various transmission elements(220 kV Substations with associated Lines along with 25MVAR, 245 KV BUS type Shunt Reactor at Bhikampur (Distt.-Bikaner) and 220 KV Substation with associated bays at Chainpura Chhota (Teh.-Rajgarh Distt.-Churu) and Supply of 1x500 MVA , 400/220/33 KV transformer at 400 KV GSS Hindaun and Supply & Installation of 1x500 MVA, 400/220/33 KV Transformer with associated bays at 400 KV GSS Bikaner) in Rajasthan (on turnkey basis) including survey, supply of all Equipments/Materials, Erection (including civil works), Testing and Commissioning under RVPN/EHV/SPV/TN-6(UBN: VPN2324WLOB01069) are invited from interested bidders up to 03:00 PM on 29.08.2023.

Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (**http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in**) of the state; and **http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvpnl** departmental website.

Superintending Engineer
(Contracts-I), Jaipur

Raj.Samwad/C/23/6480 **RRVPN/TR-5958/2023**

MALABAR CANCER CENTRE
(POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF ONCOLOGY SCIENCES & RESEARCH)
NABH Accredited (an autonomous centre under Government of Kerala
Thalassery, Kannur, Kerala - 670 103,Phone :+91 490 2399207, 2355881
Fax: 91 490 2355880,Email: mcctly@gmail.com, Web: www.mcc.kerala.gov.in

91918 MCC/358/2023-GADE4/1 25/07/2023

EXISTING AND ARISING VACANCIES

Online applications are invited for the post of Senior Resident in Radiation Oncology, Pathology, Surgical Oncology, Clinical Hematology & Medical Oncology, Anesthesiology & Imageology in MCC on contract basis .The last date for submitting online application is 21st August, 2023 at 05.00 PM. Details are available in www.mcc.kerala.gov.in Sd/- Director

कार्यालय नगर विकास न्यास, सीकर
सर्किट हाउस के पास, जयपुर रोड, सीकर–332001
ई–मेल uit.sikar@rajasthan.gov.in

क्रमांक: न.वि.न्या/विकास/2023–24/1517 दिनांक:–24.07.23

कोरिजेन्डम संख्या– 02

नगर विकास न्यास सीकर द्वारा जारी ऑनलाईन निविदा सूचना संख्या 08/2023–24 **(NIB Code no. UIS2324A0009, UBN No. UIS2324WS0B00009, UIS2324WS0B00010, UIS2324WS0B00011)** हेतु तकनीकि कारणों के कारण कोरिजेन्डम जारी किया गया है। विस्तृत कोरिजेन्डम को वेबसाईट **https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in/** व **https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** तथा कार्यालय के नोटिस बोर्ड पर देखा जा सकता है।

निविदा की अन्य शर्तें यथावत रहेगी।

अधिशाषी अभियन्ता
नगर विकास न्यास, सीकर

राज.संवाद/सी/23/6432

GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN
OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT CUM MEMBER SECRETARY, RAJASTHAN
MEDICARE RELIEF SOCIETY, SAWAI MAN SINGH HOSPITAL, JAIPUR
[Sawai Man Singh Road, Tonk Road, Jaipur, Rajasthan 302004]
{Phone 0141-2518308, 2518268}
(Email- ms.smshospital@gmail.com, cms.smshospital@gmail.com)

No. F.4( )/Store/SMS/MH/2023/2013 Jaipur dated, the 15/7/23

Notice Inviting Bid

Bids for the two year rate contract for the procurement of Drug Eluting Stents, Pacemakers, Balloon and other Consumable Items are invited from interested bidders up to 5.00 PM on – 16-8-23 other particulars of bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state.
UBN. No. MCJ2324GLRC00061

SUPERINTENDENT
CUM MEMBER SECRETARY
Jaipur dated, the 15/7/23

DIPR/C/10698

Government of Kerala
Published Tenders from 24-07-2023 to 26-07-2023
Stationery Department

Tender ID: 2023_STY_589756_1 * Controller of Stationery * Supply of Maplitho paper 75 gsm, RA1 (61 x 86 cm) * Closing Date: 16-Aug-2023 * PAC: Rs34500000

Tender ID: 2023_STY_589797_1 * Controller of Stationery * Supply of Maplitho paper 75 GSM, 86 cm Reel * Closing Date: 16-Aug-2023 * PAC: Rs12000000

Visit **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in** for more details.

Ro.No:24-26/Jul/2023/PRD/(N)8

Government of Rajasthan
Department of Archaeology and Museums, Rajasthan
(Albert Hall Campus, Ramniwas Garden, Jaipur)
Phone : +91 141 2820360, email : dirarchraj@gmail.com

No. A&M/EE/2023/10024 **Dated : 17-07-2023**

Notice for inviting E-tenders for Preparation of DPR & Supervisory Consultancy Services for the Conservation, restoration and development works at various monuments

On behalf of Hon'ble Governor, Rajasthan Archaeology and Museums Department, Jaipur invites Technical and Financial proposals (offers) from reputed consultant firms for preparation of Detailed Project Report and Supervision work for the Conservation, restoration and development works at various monuments -

NIB No.	UBN No.
AMD2324A0027	AMD2324SSOB00037
	AMD2324SSOB00038
	AMD2324SSOB00039

Complete details relating to eligibility criteria, broad scope of work, procedure for submission and terms and conditions and other information are available on the website **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** and **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in**.

Applications duly completed in all respect must be upload on website **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** as prescribed latest by 5:00 PM on 03.08.2023.

DIPR/C/10733 **EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**

INJURY SETBACK

Siraj to miss ODI series against West Indies due to sore ankle

Fast bowler Mohammed Siraj has been released from India's squad for the three-match ODI series against the West Indies due to a sore ankle, the Board of Control for Cricket in India said on Thursday. Siraj was initially included in the team which will play Thursday's ODI opener in Barbados.

GETTING IT SORTED

England skipper Stokes mulls possibility of knee surgery

England captain Ben Stokes has stated that he does not intend to change his mind about retiring from ODIs and competing in this year's ICC Men's Cricket World Cup as he aims to take the time away from the pitch to explore having surgery for his persistent knee issue. "I'm retired. [My knee] is something I want to get sorted.

MAKING THE GRADE

Ireland secures a spot in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup

Ireland booked its ticket for the 2024 ICC T20 World Cup to be held in the West Indies and the United States of America after its qualifying round match against Germany was washed out. Ireland sealed the second spot, with a game against an already-qualified Scotland still to be played on Friday.

TEST RUN

Bumrah is fully fit and may go to Ireland for T20I series: Jay Shah

A fit-again pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah is expected to be tested during the three T20Is against Ireland, BCCI secretary Jay Shah said on Thursday. "Bumrah is totally fit and he may go to Ireland," said Shah at a media conference. The speedster is expected to play a couple of warm-up games before a final call is taken.

India 1-0 up after the Jadeja-Kuldeep show, Kishan's fifty and a few hiccups

The left-arm spinners scalp seven between them after the visiting team's speedsters start Windies' procession with three early strikes; notwithstanding skipper Hope's fighting 43, the hosts crumble for a paltry 114

INDIA IN WEST INDIES

Press Trust of India
BRIDGETOWN (BARBADOS)

Left-arm spinners Kuldeep Yadav and Ravindra Jadeja masterminded the rout of an abject West Indies team as India romped to a five-wicket victory with more than 27 overs to spare in the opening ODI of a three-match series at Kensington Oval in Barbados on Thursday.

Beaten 1-0 in the preceding two-Test series, the home team was brushed aside for just 114 off 23 overs after being put in as it appeared completely at sea in trying to cope especially with variations offered by Kuldeep's wrist-spin.

Belligerent knock

India was always on course for the modest target thanks to Ishan Kishan's belligerent 52, although the loss of three wickets near the end of the chase took some of the gloss off the win.

In what was clearly a bit of an audition for younger batting aspirants ahead of the World Cup, champion batter Virat Kohli did not feature while captain Rohit Sharma only appeared at the fall of the fifth wicket.

Brought on as the sixth bowler, Kuldeep triggered the capitulation which saw the last seven wickets cascading for 26 runs, finishing with the outstanding figures of four for six off three overs.

"I've been working on my rhythm over the last two years.

"My rhythm wasn't very well last year but now it's coming out very well," said 'Man-of-the-match' Kuldeep.

"With the spin and drift it's very difficult for the batters to read, especially now with an increase in pace."

Jadeja claimed three for 37 to perfectly complement the work of Kuldeep after seamers Hardik Pandya, debutant Mukesh Kumar and Shardul Thakur had done the early damage with a wicket apiece to reduce the hosts to 45 for three.

Only captain Shai Hope, who was ninth out for a top score of 43, seemed capable of coping with the varied Indian attack as the West Indies folded for its second-lowest ODI total against India and joint-third lowest ODI total at home.

India is counting down to the hosting of the World Cup in just over two months' time while this latest West Indies batting display will only deepen the gloom in the West Indies after it failed to advance to the World Cup following a disastrous qualifying campaign in Zimbabwe in June.

Harakiri: Hetmyer is undone by an attempted scoop off Jadeja. AP

Kuldeep... West Indies' tormentor. AFP

SCOREBOARD

WEST INDIES

Brandon King b Shardul 17 *(23b, 3x4)*, Kyle Mayers c Rohit b Hardik 2 *(9b)*, Alick Athanaze c Jadeja b Mukesh 22 *(18b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Shai Hope lbw b Kuldeep 43 *(45b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Shimron Hetmyer b Jadeja 11 *(19b, 1x4)*, Rovman Powell c Gill b Jadeja 4 *(4b, 1x4)*, Romario Shepherd c Kohli b Jadeja 0 *(2b)*, Dominic Drakes lbw b Kuldeep 3 *(5b)*, Yannic Cariah lbw b Kuldeep 3 *(9b)*, Gudakesh Motie (not out) 0 *(3b)*, Jayden Seales c Hardik b Kuldeep 0 *(3b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-6, nb-2): 9; Total (in 23 overs): 114.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-7 (Mayers, 2.4 overs), 2-45 (Athanaze, 7.5), 3-45 (King, 8.3), 4-88 (Hetmyer, 15.4), 5-96 (Powell, 17.2), 6-96 (Shepherd, 17.4), 7-99 (Drakes, 18.3), 8-107 (Cariah, 20.4), 9-114 (Hope, 22.3).

INDIA BOWLING

Hardik 3-0-17-1, Mukesh 5-1-22-1, Shardul 3-1-14-1, Jadeja 6-0-37-3, Umran 3-0-17-0, Kuldeep 3-2-6-4.

INDIA

Ishan Kishan c Powell b Motie 52 *(46b, 7x4, 1x6)*, Shubman Gill c King b Seales 7 *(16b, 1x4)*, Suryakumar Yadav lbw b Motie 19 *(25b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Hardik Pandya run out 5 *(7b)*, Ravindra Jadeja (not out) 16 *(21b, 1x4)*, Shardul Thakur c Athanaze b Cariah 1 *(4b)*, Rohit Sharma (not out) 12 *(19b, 2x4)*; Extras (lb-2, w-3, nb-1): 6; Total (for five wkts. in 22.5 overs): 118.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-18 (Gill, 3.6), 2-54 (Suryakumar, 10.5), 3-70 (Hardik, 13.1), 4-94 (Kishan, 16.2), 5-97 (Shardul, 17.2).

WEST INDIES BOWLING

Drakes 4-0-19-0, Seales 4-0-21-1, Mayers 1-0-6-0, Shepherd 1-0-2-0, Motie 6.5-0-26-2, Cariah 5-0-35-1, Athanaze 1-0-7-0.

Toss: India; **PoM:** Kuldeep.

Second ODI: July 29, Barbados, 7 p.m. IST.

Brook top scores, Starc scalps four as England scores 283

THE ASHES

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

England was bowled out for 283 on the first day of the fifth and final Ashes Test at The Oval on Thursday.

Australia, which leads 2-1 and will claim a first series win in England since 2001 if it avoids defeat, was 61 for one, trailing by 222 at stumps with opener David Warner the man to fall.

Earlier, Harry Brook top scored with 85 before being dismissed during an England collapse that saw four wickets lost for 28 runs as the hosts slumped from 184 for three to 212 for seven. Brook had shared a stand of 111 with Moeen Ali (34).

Opener Ben Duckett made 41 before Chris Woakes added late impetus with a run-a-ball 36.

Woakes was last man out when he holed out off Mitchell Starc, the left-arm fast bowler leading Australia's attack with four for 82 from 14.4 overs. England was 250 for seven at tea.

The visitors, 2-1 up following last week's rain-marred draw at Old Trafford, have already retained the Ashes.

Earlier, Brook rebuilt the innings during a stand of 111 with Moeen Ali (34) that featured a flurry of boundaries typifying England's aggressive 'Bazball' approach to Test cricket.

He hooked left-arm fast bowler Mitchell Starc for six and Moeen twice hoisted Australia captain Pat Cummins high over the boundary rope. When off-spinner Todd Murphy, in for all-rounder Cameron Green, dropped short with his second ball, Moeen, struggling with a leg injury, pulled him for four.

But he was bowled the next delivery, aiming across the line, starting a clatter of wickets that emboldened an Australia side bidding for a first Ashes series win in England since 2001.

Stokes was then bowled for just three by a full-length Starc delivery that kept low and Jonny Bairstow, fresh from his stunning 99 not out in Manchester, played on to Josh Hazlewood for four.

Brook then fell in sight of what would have been his fifth Test century and first against Australia, when an edged drive off Starc was caught by Steve Smith at second slip to end a dashing 91-ball innings featuring 11 fours and two sixes.

In full flow: Brook's knock contained 11 fours and two sixes. AP

SCOREBOARD

England — 1st innings: Zak Crawley c Smith b Cummins 22, Ben Duckett c Carey b Marsh 41, Moeen Ali b Murphy 34, Joe Root b Hazlewood 5, Harry Brook c Smith b Starc 85, Ben Stokes b Starc 3, Jonny Bairstow b Hazlewood 4, Chris Woakes c Head b Starc 36, Mark Wood b Murphy 28, Stuart Broad c Head b Starc 7, James Anderson (not out) 0; Extras (b-9, lb-7, nb-2): 18; Total (in 54.4 overs): 283.

Fall of wickets: 1-62, 2-66, 3-73, 4-184, 5-193, 6-208, 7-212, 8-261, 9-270.

Australia bowling: Starc 14.4-1-82-4, Hazlewood 13-0-54-2, Cummins 13-2-66-1, Marsh 8-0-43-1, Murphy 6-0-22-2.

Australia — 1st innings: Usman Khawaja (batting) 26, David Warner c Crawley b Woakes 24, Marnus Labuschagne (batting) 2; Extras (lb-9): 9; Total (for one wkt. in 25 overs): 61.

Fall of wicket: 1-49.

England bowling: Broad 8-2-13-0, Anderson 7-2-21-0, Wood 5-1-10-0, Woakes 5-3-8-1.

Toss: Australia.

Noman spins Pakistan to innings and series win

Agence France-Presse
COLOMBO

Noman Ali took seven wickets as Pakistan routed Sri Lanka by an innings and 222 runs to clinch the second Test inside four days and sweep the series 2-0 on Thursday. The left-arm spinner took the first seven wickets and fast bowler Naseem Shah took the final three to bowl Sri Lanka out for 188 in the evening session here.

The scores: Sri Lanka 166 and 188 in 67.4 overs (Dimuth Karunaratne 41, Angelo Mathews 63 n.o., Naseem Shah 3/44, Noman Ali 7/70) lost to Pakistan 576/5 decl. in 134 overs (Abdullah Shafique 201, Shan Masood 51, Saud Shakeel 57, Agha Salman 132 n.o., Mohammad Rizwan 50 n.o., Asitha Fernando 3/133).
PoM: Abdullah Shafique.
PoS: Agha Salman.
Pakistan won by an innings and 222 runs to clinch series 2-0.

BCCI considers rescheduling a few World Cup games

Rakesh Rao
NEW DELHI

Precisely a month after the announcement of the World Cup schedule, The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) indicated possible change of dates of some of the matches.

The meeting of the World Cup staging associations was chaired by the Board president Roger Binny, attended by secretary Jay Shah, other office-bearers and the representatives of all the host affiliates.

Significantly, Shah declined to comment on the reported move to reschedule the much-awaited India- Pakistan match to be played on Oct. 15.

The speculation over the possible change of date arose after Ahmedabad Police reportedly expressed its ability to provide adequate security during the India-Pakistan match on Oct. 15, the first day of the auspicious Navratri festival.

Considering the scale of the festivities in the State, a large number of security personnel is needed and it would be challenging for the men in uniform to ensure safety of all concerned, along with the big-ticket match.

Shah categorically stated that no change of venue was considered.

"On the request of three full members of the ICC, we discussed the possibility of changing the dates of a few matches to remove the unusual gaps between two matches, involving particular teams.

The picture will be clear in a couple of days, said Shah.

Manush provides the spark before Hana and Assar make it a bonfire for Paltan

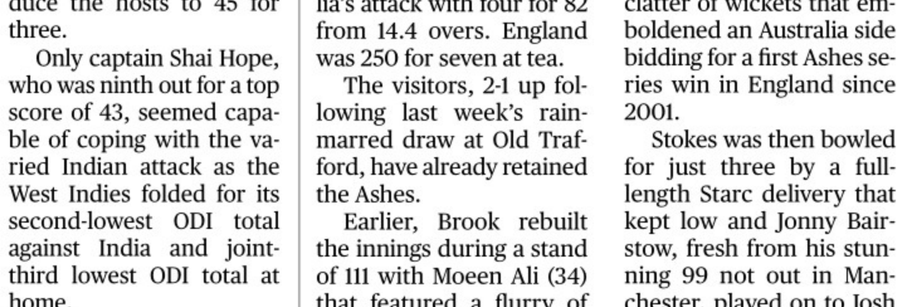
UTT

Amol Karhadkar
PUNE

Even the best athletes wilt under pressure. This was on display as U Mumba's overseas stars Quadri Aruna and Lily Zhang lost the plot against Puneri Paltan in a must-win match on Thursday.

Paltan, thanks to a superlative display by southpaw Manush Shah and Hana Matelova, overcame its fancied opponent to win the Maharashtra Derby 10-5 in the final league game of Season 4 and entered the Ultimate Table Tennis semifinal.

U Mumba, boasting the highest-ranked singles players in the world in both the men's and women's sections – was the favourite going into the contest.



Perfect start: Manush outlasted Aruna in the first match as Paltan shocked U Mumba.

But Manush, creating unusual angles primarily with his forehand top-spin shots, continued his sensational run to surprise World No. 17 Quadri Aruna as Paltan began the evening on a high.

Hana, riding high on confidence and boosted by an army of schoolkids cheering for the home team, stunned Lily Zhang in a battle that witnessed quite a few rallies.

With Paltan 4-2 ahead, Manush and Hana combined to win the mixed doubles against Manav Thakkar and Lily.

Omar Assar, Pune's main singles player, sealed the deal in the fourth tie despite conceding a game to Manav.

The results:
U Mumba TT lost to Puneri Paltan 5-10 (Quadri Aruna lost to Manush Shah 7-11, 11-8, 8-11; Lily Zhang lost to Hana Matelova 11-7, 10-11, 8-11; Manav Thakkar & Lily lost to Manush & Hana 8-11, 11-4, 5-11; Manav lost to Omar Assar 11-8, 8-11, 5-11; Diya Chitale lost to Archana Kamath 11-8, 10-11, 5-11).

Final league standings: 1. Dabang Delhi 43 points; 2. Chennai Lions 42; 3. Puneri Paltan 38; 4. Goa Challengers 36; 5. Bengaluru Smashers 35; 6. U Mumba 33. All teams played five matches.

The semifinal line-up:
Dabang Delhi vs Goa Challengers; U Mumba vs Puneri Paltan.

Navneet helps India hold Spain

HOCKEY

Press Trust of India
BARCELONA

Navneet Kaur struck twice to help the Indian women's team register a come-from-behind 2-2 draw against hosts Spain in its second match of the 100th Anniversary Spanish Hockey Federation International tournament here on Thursday.

Navneet was on target in the 14th and 29th minutes after Xantal Gine (13th) gave Spain the lead. The second goal for the home team was scored by Laia Vidosa (26th).

Earlier on Wednesday, the men's team played out a 1-1 draw with Netherlands. In-form captain Harmanpreet Singh scored India's lone goal in the 12th minute, before Jasper Brinkman (40th) equalised for Netherlands.

INBRIEF

Ronaldo's Al Nassr draws with Inter Milan in Osaka friendly

Cristiano Ronaldo was replaced at half-time as Al Nassr drew 1-1 with Champions League finalist Inter Milan in the second game of its pre-season tour in Osaka on Thursday. Abdulrahman Ghareeb opened the scoring for Al Nassr midway through the first-half, before Davide Frattesi, *in pic.*, equalised for Inter a minute before half-time.

Prannoy, Lakshya, and Satwik & Chirag make last-eight stage

India's H.S. Prannoy prevailed over compatriot K. Srikanth after Lakshya Sen and the in-form men's doubles duo of R. Satwiksairaj and Chirag Shetty sailed into the quarterfinals of the Japan Open badminton in Tokyo on Thursday.

The results (pre-quarterfinals):
Men's singles: H.S. Prannoy bt K. Srikanth 19-21, 21-9, 21-9; Lakshya Sen bt Kanta Tsuneyama (Jpn) 21-14, 21-16;
Doubles: R. Satwiksairaj/ Chirag Shetty bt Lasse Molhede/ Jeppe Bay (Den) 21-17, 21-11.
Women's doubles: Nami Matsuyama/ Chiraru Shida (Jpn) bt Gayatri Gopichand/ Treesa Jolly 23-21, 21-19.

Trossard on the double as Arsenal downs Barcelona

Leandro Trossard bagged a second-half brace as Arsenal twice came from behind to defeat Spanish champion Barcelona 5-3 in a pre-season friendly in Los Angeles on Wednesday. Belgian international Trossard netted in the 55th and 78th minutes as the English Premier League runner-up completed an emphatic victory.

The result: Arsenal 5 (Saka 13, Havertz 43, Trossard 55, 78, Vieira 89) bt Barcelona 3 (Lewandowski 7, Raphinha 34, Torres 88).

Ashish clinches ABF continental heavyweight title

India's Ashish Bhandor defeated crowd favourite Aekkaphob Auraiwan 5-1 to clinch the Asian Boxing Federation (ABF) continental heavyweight title here. Ashish won the fiercely competitive bout in 10 rounds. The judges' scores of 93-96, 95-96, and 95-94 reflected the intensity and tightness of the bout, with Ashish ultimately claiming the title by a split decision from the three judges.

David Silva calls time on his career

Spain great David Silva announced the end of his career on Thursday at age 37, one week after suffering a serious knee injury. "Today is a sad day for me," Silva said in a video posted on his social media accounts. "It is time to say goodbye to what I have dedicated my whole life to." He had been preparing for another Champions League campaign after helping Real Sociedad finish fourth in LaLiga last season.

Bengaluru races for July 29 and 30 postponed

The Stewards of the Bangalore Turf Club have decided to postpone the Saturday (July 29) and Sunday (July 30) races days to Friday (August 11) and Saturday (August 12) respectively due to persistent rains and inclement weather rendering the underfoot conditions of the races track not conducive for racing.

LIVE TELECAST

Football: Women's World Cup, FanCode, 5.30 a.m., 2 & 4.30 p.m.
BWF: Japan Open, Sports 18-1 & Jio Cinema App, 6.30 a.m.
The Ashes: 5th Test, day 2, Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 3.30 p.m.
UTT: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7 p.m.
Pro Panja League: Sony Sports Ten 3, 7 p.m. onwards
Formula One: Belgian GP (Qualifying), F1 TV & F1 TV Pro, 8.30 p.m.
MLC: Sports 18-1 & Jio Cinema App, 5.45 a.m. (Saturday)

United States' Horan denies Netherlands a famous victory

The American scores in the 62nd to cancel out Roord's 17th-minute strike with neither side yet assured a passage into the next round; Australia's progress under a cloud after it comes up short against Nigeria; Portugal defeats Vietnam

WOMEN'S WC

Agence France-Presse
WELLINGTON

Drawing level: Horan, third right, heads in US's equaliser against Netherlands. AP

Lindsey Horan denied the Netherlands a famous win over the United States on Thursday in a 1-1 draw while second-half goals from Osinachi Ohale and Asisat Oshoala gave Nigeria a stunning 3-2 win over Australia at the Women's World Cup on Thursday to leave the co-hosts in danger of an early exit.

Portugal defeated Vietnam 2-0 in an encounter between two sides making their debuts at the competition. First-half goals by Telma Encarnacao and Kika Nazareth ended Vietnam's hopes of going any further.

The United States beat the Netherlands 2-0 four years ago to retain the World Cup and is now pursuing a third title in a row, something that has never been done before.

But it was far from its best in Wellington and fell behind in the 17th minute to a superb strike from midfielder Jill Roord.

Vlatko Andonovski's side grew into the game and struck back just after the hour with a header from skipper Horan, moments after she clashed with her Lyon teammate Danielle van de Donk.

Stalemate

The Americans might have won it after that, but the biggest match of the group stages ended in stalemate and neither side is yet assured of a berth in the knockout phase heading into their final group games.

In front of 49,156 screaming and chanting Australian fans in Brisbane, the Matildas missed a golden chance to reach the last 16 and instead now face a must-win final group game against Canada.

After the two teams went into the break locked at 1-1 thanks to two stoppage-time goals, Ohale put Nigeria in front in the 65th minute when she headed home after Australian keeper Mackenzie Arnold could only parry a shot into her path.

Oshoala, who came on as a replacement after half-time, then took advantage of a mix-up between Arnold and defender Alanna Kennedy to get between them and fire home from an acute angle.

Australia got one back through Kennedy in the 10th minute of stoppage time but the Nigerians held on for a famous victory.

The results: Group B: Australia 2 (Egmond 45+1; Kennedy 90+10) lost to Nigeria 3 (Kanu 45+6; Ohale 65, Oshoala 72).

Group E: United States 1 (Horan 62) drew with Netherlands 1 (Roord 17); Portugal 2 (Encarnacao 7, Nazareth 21) bt Vietnam 0.

Indian men get a relatively easy group in Asian Games

Press Trust of India
HANGZHOU

The Indian men's football team has been clubbed with China, Bangladesh, and Myanmar for the Hangzhou Asian Games in a relatively easy Group A, while the women have Thailand and Chinese Taipei in Group B. The draw was held on Thursday.

There are six groups in the men's competition. The top two teams from each group and four best third-placed teams will advance to the round of 16.

As far as the women's competition is concerned, the top team from each group and the three best second-placed teams will progress to quarterfinals.

Since 2002, football in the Asian Games has been an U-23 affair with three players above that age being permitted in a team.

However, in this edition 24-year-old players are also eligible to play because of the one-year postponement of the Games.

Sunil Chhetri, Gurpreet Singh Sandhu and Sandesh Jhingan are set to be part of the men's team as the three over-age players.

With lower-ranked Myanmar and Bangladesh in its group, Indian men's team will be expected to progress to the next round, while the women will also fancy their chances.

India in Group A for FIFA WC 2026 qualification round 2

FOOTBALL

ANI
NEW DELHI

The Blue Tigers have been drawn in Group A of the FIFA World Cup 2026 Preliminary Joint Qualification Round 2 against Qatar, Kuwait, and winners of the Round 1 match between Afghanistan and Mongolia, after the draw was conducted at the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) House in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on Thursday, July 27, 2023.

The matches will be played in a double round-robin format on a home-and-away basis, as per a press release from the All India Football Federation (AIFF).

The teams that finish in the top two positions in the qualification group will enter Round 3 of the FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifiers, and get direct entry into the AFC Asian Cup 2027.

India has been in hot form in 2023, going on an 11-match unbeaten streak, spanning the Tri-Nation Cup, the Intercontinental Cup, and the SAFF Championship.

During the course of this treble-winning run, India has played Kuwait twice in the SAFF Championship, with both matches, in the group stage and the final, ending 1-1.

The Blue Tigers successfully converted the penalty shootout in the SAFF final into a ninth sub-continental title in Bengaluru, earlier this month.

Igor Stimac's men had also been clubbed alongside Qatar in the previous edition of the World Cup Qualifiers, where they produced a couple of inspiring performances against the defending AFC Asian Cup Champions in Doha.

Afghanistan and Mongolia have also played against India in recent times.

Venkatesh Iyer keen to increase his bowling workload

DEODHAR TROPHY

S. Dipak Ragav
PUDUCHERRY

Venkatesh Iyer has had a roller-coaster last two years that saw him rise rapidly to make his India debut in T20s and ODIs after an excellent IPL in 2021.

However, since January 2022, he has been out of the squad and is trying to forge his way back after a tough year. A freak ankle injury during last year's Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy forced him out of most of the domestic season before he had a decent IPL for Kolkata Knight Riders, the highlight of which was a century he scored against Mumbai Indians.

The 28-year-old is currently leading the Central Zone in the ongoing Deodhar Trophy and will look to start the new season strongly. "I think last year was perfect for me. Every season can't go your way. I played for India last year and then had a freak injury. I had to go to the National Cricket Academy (NCA) just to start walking again, doing it for 10-15 minutes. So it taught me a lot," said Venkatesh.

He is the kind of cricketer India always yearns for – a medium-pace all-rounder. With only a few in the country who fit the bill, it was one reason he got fast-tracked into international cricket. "To contribute in all facets of the game is a challenge, but it is something I look forward to. But I don't do that with the selection in mind because it will affect my performance. I just look to contribute to the team."

Increase workload

After slowly recovering from the injury, Venkatesh said he will use this tournament to increase his bowling workload. "I was not 100% before the IPL, but I am back on track. It is easier to bowl ten overs in nets, but in matches, after fielding for 30 overs, to bowl six to seven overs when your legs are sore is the perfect way to build volume, which helps me get the rhythm back," he explained while crediting the role of his nutritionist Suraj Thakuria to help him come back strongly.

On the possible roadmap back to the national team, the Central Zone skipper said, "I don't want to term this a comeback. I played for India when I least expected it. If I keep it simple, contributing to any team I play, selection will take care of itself. I feel I will still play for India and have that confidence. But if I keep thinking about it, that is excess baggage I think I will carry, which I don't want to do."

Friday's matches: South Zone vs North East Zone, CAP Ground 2 (9 a.m.); North Zone vs East Zone, CAP Ground 3 (9 a.m.); *Central Zone vs West Zone, Siechem Stadium (1.30 p.m.).
*Live on www.bcci.tv

Venkatesh. S.S. KUMAR

Marchand makes a splash with his third gold

SWIMMING WORLDS

Agence France-Presse
FUKUOKA

Triple delight: Marchand celebrates after nailing the 200m individual medley title on Thursday. AFP

French superstar Leon Marchand claimed his third gold of swimming's World championships on Thursday, while Australia's Kyle Chalmers won a sprint shoot-out that sent defending champion and world record-holder David Popovici of Romania home empty-handed.

Marchand won the 200m individual medley to add to his 400m IM and 200m butterfly titles.

Canadian teen Summer McIntosh claimed her first title of the competition in the 200m butterfly, while teammate Kaylee McKeown picked up more gold in the women's 50m backstroke. Australia's women's 4x200m freestyle relay team broke their own world record in the day's final race.

Marchand romped home in the 200m IM in a time of 1min, 54.82sec, finishing ahead of British pair Duncan Scott on 1:55.95 and Tom Dean on 1:56.07.

The result gave Marchand an IM gold double, having broken Michael Phelps's legendary world record in the 400 on the competition's opening night.

Chalmers came home in a time of 47.15sec to finish ahead of Jack Alexy of the United States in 47.31 and France's Maxime Grousset in 47.42. Australia's women's 4x200m freestyle relay team broke the world record in 7min, 37.50sec.

The results:
Men: 100m freestyle: 1. Kyle Chalmers (Aus) 47.15s, 2. Jack Alexy (USA) 47.31, 3. Maxime Grousset (Fra) 47.42; **200 IM:** Leon Marchand (Fra) 1:54.82s, 2. Duncan Scott (GBr) 1:55.95, 3. Tom Dean (GBr) 1:56.07.
Women: 200m butterfly: 1. Summer McIntosh (Can) 2:04.06s, 2. Elizabeth Dekkers (Aus) 2:05.46, 3. Regan Smith (USA) 2:06.58; **50m backstroke:** 1. Kaylee McKeown (Aus) 27.08s, 2. Regan Smith (USA) 27.11, 3. Lauren Cox (GBr) 27.20; **4x200m freestyle:** 1. Australia 7:37.50s, 2. 7:41.38, 3. China 7:44.40.

'Decision on dates for holding Worlds trials after August 1'

WRESTLING

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA)-appointed ad-hoc panel for wrestling is likely to announce the dates for holding trials and the criteria for the World Championships between August 1 and 3 after getting a clarity on the number of nominations being filed for the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) elections.

"The last date for filing nominations is July 31. So by August 1, we should get clarity on how many candidates are contesting for respective posts. If there is just a single candidate for each post, it is my thinking that the reins of the WFI will be handed over to the new office-bearers on the same day," said Gian Singh, a member of the ad-hoc committee on Thursday.

"The elected body will then decide on when to hold trials for the Worlds and it will have enough time to do so. But if there is more than one nomination for every post, then the elected members will be known on Aug. 12, the day elections are scheduled."

Universiade, China's big test before this September's Asian Games, begins today

Jyothi Yarraji, Tejaswin Shankar and Manu Bhaker among Indian stars to watch out for; the last two will be will be India's flag-bearers at Friday's opening ceremony; India withdraws wushu team over visa issues

Stan Rayan

With the Asian Games in Hangzhou just two months away, the World University Games which begin at Chengdu on Friday will be closely watched. And with nearly 10,000 athletes competing, it will be a sort of test event before this September's Asiad.

China had suffered a huge and long Covid lockdown earlier but officials of the Indian team, who are now in Chengdu, have not noticed any worry or restrictions so far.

"No mask or any sort of restriction. We are free to travel anywhere," Binu George Varghese, the contingent manager of the Indian athletics team, told *The Hindu* from Chengdu on Thursday.

"And China has made all the public transport free for the participants."

India has sent 227 athletes (and 60 officials) and the list includes stars like Asian sprint hurdles champion Jyothi Yarraji, Commonwealth Games bronze medallist high jumper Tejaswin Shankar, Olympians Manu Bhaker, Elavenil Valarivan (both shooting) and Srihari Nataraj (swimming).

"The Universiade is not her main focus so anything good there is a bonus but we wanted her to have a competition with rounds prior to the World Championships (Budapest, August) and Asian Games (Hangzhou, September)," said James Hillier, Jyothi's coach at the Reliance Foundation.

Star attraction: Jyothi Yarraji will use the varsity games to prepare for tougher competitions ahead in this season according to her coach Hillier. FILE PHOTO: RITU RAJ KONWAR

Others in the fray

The athletics list also includes Asian championship 20km walk silver medallist Priyanka Goswami, javelin thrower Vikrant Malik, who produced an impressive 81.20m effort at the North East Zone varsities meet in Bhubaneswar last December but who could manage just 66.82m the recent inter-State Nationals, star sprinter Amlan Borgohain and Under-20 Asian 1500m gold medallist Laxita Sandilea.

Tejaswin, the Asian Championships' decathlon bronze medallist who will be doing the high jump in Chengdu, and Manu Bhaker will be India's flag-bearers at Friday's opening ceremony.

Tejaswin's name did not figure in the entry list, but Binu George confirmed that the issue has been sorted out.

The Indian contingent would have been much bigger, but the Government pulled out the eight-member wushu team at the last minute over visa issues.

"Three wushu 'players' of Arunachal Pradesh were 'denied' visa and given stapled visa by China at the last moment. So the Government withdrew the entire wushu team," said Gaganendu Dash, the head of the Indian delegation in Chengdu.

On the positive side, India has sent its men's and women's volleyball teams for the Games. Badminton, tennis, table tennis, archery, fencing, and judo are among the other events where Indians will be in action.

The Games officially begin on Friday, but a few qualification rounds of archery were gone through on Thursday.

Ankita Raina in WTA doubles quarterfinals in Warsaw

TENNIS

Sports Bureau

Ankita Raina and Yue Yuan of China beat Maja Chwalinska and Jessika Ponchet 7-6(3), 7-5 in the doubles pre-quarterfinals of the $259,303 WTA tennis tournament in Warsaw, Poland, on Thursday.

In the $60,000 ITF women's event in Dallas, USA, Karman Kaur Thandi cruised past Chloe Henderson 6-1, 6-1 in the first round.

The results: €630,705 ATP, Umag, Croatia: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Sadio Doumbia & Fabien Reboul (Fra) bt Sriram Balaji & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan 6-0, 6-3.

€118,000 Challenger, Segovia, Spain: Doubles: Quarterfinals: Francis Casey Alcantara (Phi) & Sun Fajing (Chn) bt Aisam-Ul-Haq Qureshi (Pak) & Divij Sharan 6-4, 6-3.

$40,000 Challenger, Astana, Kazakhstan: Doubles: Quarterfinals: S.D. Prajwal Dev & Niki Poonacha bt Grigoriy Lomakin (Kaz) & Ajeet Rai (Nzl) 4-6, 6-4, [10-6]; Benjamin Lock (Zim) & Rubin Statham (Nzl) bt Parikshhit Somani & Khumoyun Sultanov (Uzb) 6-1, 3-6, [10-7].

$25,000 ITF men, Brazzaville, Congo: Pre-quarterfinals: Rishab Agarwal bt Daniil Savelev 6-2, 6-3.

Doubles: Quarterfinals: Atharva Sharma & Tushar Sharma bt Michael Sobhy & Amr Elsayed (Egy) 3-6, 6-2, [10-7].

$259,303 WTA, Warsaw: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Ankita Raina & Yue Yuan (Chn) bt Maja Chwalinska (Pol) & Jessika Ponchet (Fra) 7-6(3), 7-5.

$100,000 ITF women, Figueira Da Foz, Portugal: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Rutuja Bhosale & Emily Webley-Smith (GBR) bt Sana Garakani & Milla Sequeira (Por) 6-1, 6-0; Estelle Cascino (Fra) & Ylena In-Albon (Sui) bt Vasanti Shinde & Issabella Shinikova (Bul) 6-4, 6-3.

$60,000 ITF women, Dallas: First round: Karman Kaur Thandi bt Chloe Henderson (USA) 6-1, 6-1.

$15,000 ITF women, Monastir: Pre-quarterfinals: Zeel Desai bt Sara Milanese (Ita) 6-2, 6-2.

BENGALURU ROUND UP

Mohit's bowling sets up Mount Joy's win

A. Mohit Kumar's four-wicket haul (4/22) helped Mount Joy CC defeat Engrades CC by seven wickets in the KSCA Twenty20 tournament.

The scores: Cambridge CC 80/3 in eight overs (MacNeil Hadley Noronha 40) bt Select Cricketers 37/4 in five overs [Match revised to eight overs per side because of rain and later target revised again to 51 from five overs).

Minerva CC 79/9 in 16 overs lost to Sir Syed Cricketers 80/2 in 11.5 overs (A. Rohan Patil 37 n.o.) [Match revised to 16 overs per side because of rain].

Engrades CC 125/6 in 20 overs (Gnane 26, Abu 59 n.o., A. Mohit Kumar 4/22) lost to Mount Joy CC 126/3 in 14.1 overs (A.M. Kiran 41, Aditya Somanna 38 n.o.).

Rajajinagar Cricketers 142/7 in 15 overs (Rohan Kadam 32, S. Shivaraj 46 n.o., C.P. Tharesh 3/28) bt RVCE 111/5 in 15 overs (Vaibhav Suresh 37 n.o., C.P. Tharesh 26 n.o.) [Match revised to 15 overs per side because of rain].

Eleven Brother's CC, Magadi 73/6 in 16 overs (M. Krishna Srivatsa 4/15) lost to Century Cricketers 77/1 in 7.1 overs (Bhuvan M. Raju 45 n.o.)[Match revised to 16 overs per side because of rain].

Visweswarapuram CC (2) 116/9 in 20 overs (S. Toufeeq 40, Kaivalya Mishra 3/21) lost to Maharana CC 117/5 in 15 overs (Likith S. Gowda 38, A.P. Bhaveesh 3/18).

Malleswaram Gymkhana 116/7 in 20 overs (S.A. Sooraj 51) lost to Social Cricketers 46/1 in six overs [On better run-rate after rain interrupted play].

Cavaliers CC 45/6 in 10 overs lost to Swastic Union CC (1) 51/2 in 5.2 overs [Match revised to 10 overs per side because of rain].

Kodagu humbles United RR Nagar

Kodagu Colts FC blanked United RR Nagar FC 7-0 in the KSFA Bangalore North & South C-division league here on Thursday.

Other results: FC Mangalore 4 bt Blue Wings FC 0; Benson Town FC 1 bt Gopalan FC 0; Victoria FC 2 bt BPSS FC 1; Kodagu Colts FC 7 bt United RR Nagar FC 0; Mysore Vijayanagar FC 9 bt BMFC 0; Bangalore Footies FC 0 drew with Bangalore North FC 0.

Postal rides on Ramesh's brace

H.T. Ramesh scored a brace as Postal edged DYES-B 4-3 in the Hockey Karnataka League Championship here on Thursday.

The results: Postal 4 (R.B. Vijay Kumar 10, H.T. Ramesh 17, 59, Chethan Chinnappa 52) bt DYES-B 3 (B. Arjun 23, 48, Niketh Gagde 56); DYES-A 3 (M.T. Aryan Uthappa 7, Pranam Gowda 30, 40) bt Karnataka State Police 1 (R. Umesh Mutegar 54).

THE HINDU GROUP

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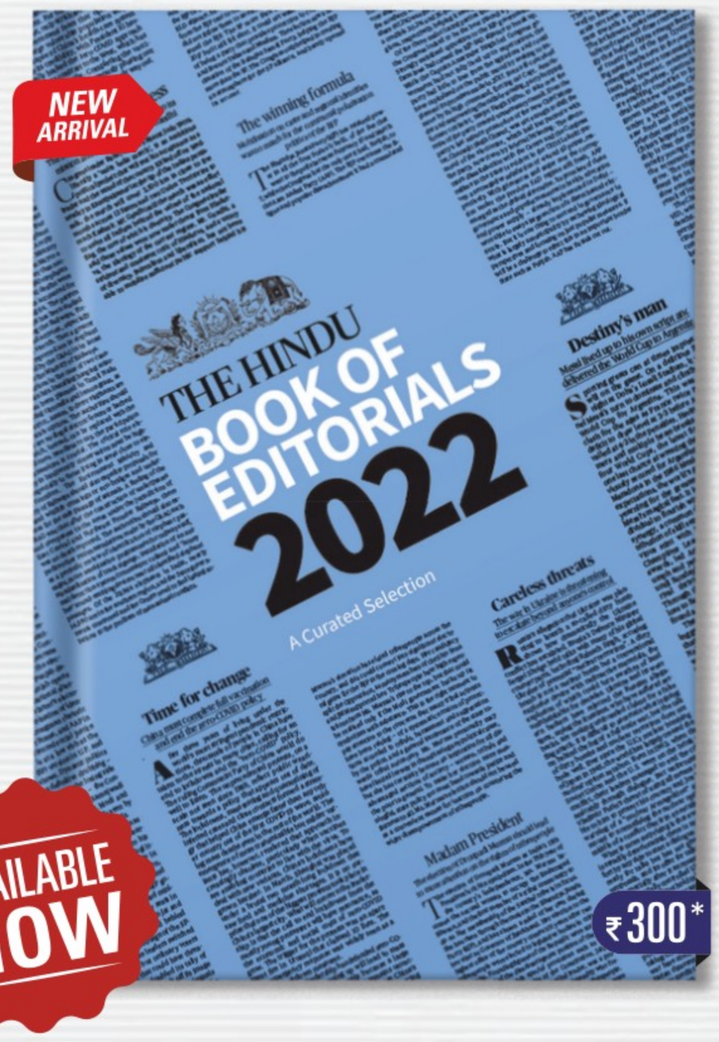

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Image simulated for illustrative purpose only. Actual UX/UI may differ. Color subject to availability. Flex mode supported at angles between 75° & 115°. S Pen Fold Edition sold separately and is only compatible with Galaxy Z Fold5, Z Fold4, Z Fold3. Devices shown are sold separately. Offers may be revised or withdrawn without prior notice. *T&C apply. Offer price shown above is 1 unit of Galaxy Z Flip5 8GB|256GB inclusive of exchange value of old device, upgrade bonus & bank cashback. Final price at discretion of dealer. #Retail price of 1 unit of Galaxy Z Flip5 8GB|256GB. Price inclusive of taxes. ~Approximate value on exchange of 1 unit of Galaxy Z Flip4 8GB|128GB. Exchange value varies basis model and condition of old device. Exchange at the discretion of retailer. **Upgrade bonus provided by brand at its sole discretion upon exchange of select smartphones. Reach out to dealer for more details. ^Cashback provided by issuer/NBFC at its sole discretion. ***Eligibility for EMI at the sole discretion of the financiers including those listed on Samsung Finance+ (Financier T&C applies). Samsung disclaims any liabilities with the same. ^^10% Cashback applicable as per limits- Signature variant: ₹ 2500 monthly, ₹ 10000 annually. Infinite variant: ₹ 5000 monthly, ₹ 20000 annually. Bank cashback/EMI offer cannot be clubbed with 10% Extra Cashback on Samsung Axis Bank Credit Cards.

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